

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:40 p.m. on March 7, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Carolyn McGinn

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Clay Aurand

HB 2123 – School districts; transportation of student residing outside the district

Representative Clay Aurand testified in support of **HB 2123**. He noted that the bill related to the ten mile bus rule which became effective in 1997. He explained that, under the current rule, some families still are not able to access the school that fits their needs because the school nearest to their home is located in a nearby school district. The bill would correct this inconvenience by providing that students who live more than ten miles from their school can attend school in an adjoining district if the receiving district agrees to accept and provide transportation for the student. (Attachment 1)

There being no others wishing to testify, the hearing on **HB 2123** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2007.

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST**

DATE: March 7, 2008

NAME	REPRESENTING
SCOTT FRANK	LPA
Diane Gjerstad	Wichita Public Schools
TERRY FOXS YTH	KNEA
Val DeFever	SQE
BILL REARDON	USD 500
Mark Tallman	KASB
Dodie Wellshear	USA/Kansas
Kd Maly	LGR

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CHAIRMAN:
EDUCATION

MEMBER:
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET

I appreciate the opportunity to testify this morning on **HB 2123**. First a little background:

Through the years; unification, consolidation and the closing of attendance centers has left many families in the unfortunate position of residing in a district whose schools are substantially farther away than a neighboring district's school. Families who find themselves in this situation have always been able to go to a school outside their district with approval of that school. However, unless the students' home school district allowed it, the receiving school could not send buses to the students' homes to pick them up.

To remedy this, the legislature enacted the current law that allows for students, meeting certain criteria, to board a bus at their house and ride to their hometown school. What a radical concept.

The bill before you is an attempt to help individual families by removing one of the criteria that is in the current law. The problem is that some families still are not able to access the school that fits their families needs. Removing one more barrier can only make life easier for families, especially those whose work location is different and a large distance from their home district's school.

The trend of closing attendance centers in rural Kansas continues. Let's do what we can to make this difficult reality less of a problem for parents and kids.

Thank you.

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*Senate Education Committee
3-7-07
Attachment 1*