

Approved: May 22, 2007

Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger on April 26, 2007, at 7:00 P.M., at the rail outside the Senate Chamber of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Donald Betts - excused
Senator Jim Barone - excused
Senator Jay Emler - excused
Senator Chris Steienger - excused
Senator Carolyn McGinn - excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means

Conferees appearing before the committee: none

Others attending: various

Bill Introductions

Senator V. Schmidt moved, with a second by Senator Morris, to introduce a bill concerning the Kansas Consumer Protection Act regarding healthcare providers. Motion carried on a voice vote. Senator John Vratil requested the bill introduction.

Senator Morris moved, with a second by Senator Wysong, to introduce a bill concerning the Kansas Rural Policy Authority. Motion carried on a voice vote. Senator Steve Morris requested the bill (Attachment 1).

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2007.

Establishing the Kansas Rural Policy Authority

Mission:

(a) The legislature of the state of Kansas hereby finds and declares that:

(1) rural communities provide employment, education, services, and opportunities for social interaction and play a critical role in the economic viability of the state of Kansas;

(2) decline in these communities has resulted in the need for focused efforts by the state of Kansas to ensure their future prosperity and ability to continue to contribute to the welfare and economy of the state;

(3) the universities, colleges, nonprofit institutions and private enterprises in the state of Kansas will be able to further educate and train community leaders, entrepreneurs, health care professionals, educators and others to provide a supportive environment promoting economic and community development through increased targeted investments;

(4) manufacturing, licensing and commercialization of products derived from agriculture and community entrepreneurial activities will benefit the state's economy and will facilitate the development of the rural economy and rural communities in the state of Kansas;

(5) the mission of the Kansas rural policy authority is to make rural Kansas the most desirable area in which to conduct, facilitate, support, and fund rural business and cultural development and entrepreneurship, and to make Kansas a national leader the creation and implementation of strategies to foster leadership, the retention of youth, development of entrepreneurship, and encouragement of local wealth generation, to create new jobs, foster economic growth, advance scientific knowledge and improve the quality of life for the citizens of the state of Kansas;

(6) the needs of the citizens of the state of Kansas and the public and private entities engaged in rural and community development will be best served by an independent public authority charged with the mission of facilitating, supporting, funding and performing rural development projects for the benefit of its citizens to promote the state's research, development and entrepreneurial objectives.

(b) The exercise of the powers permitted by this act are deemed to be an essential governmental function in matters of public necessity in the provision of bioscience, education, research, development and commercialization.

[Based on K.S.A. 74-99b02]

Membership:

The authority shall be governed by an eleven-member board.

Nine of the members of the board shall be representatives of the general public who are recognized for outstanding knowledge and leadership in the fields of agriculture, finance, business, health care, legal affairs, education or government.

*Senate Ways and Means
4-26-07
Attachment 1*

Of the nine voting members, six must be residents of the state with principal place of residence outside a Metropolitan Service Area.

The other two members of the board shall be nonvoting members with research and rural development expertise representing state universities and shall be appointed by the Kansas board of regents. Nonvoting members shall serve at the pleasure of the board of regents.

Of the nine voting members who will be appointed to the authority's first board, two shall be appointed by the governor for a term of office of four years, two shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, for a term of office of three years, two shall be appointed by the president of the senate for a term of office of three years, one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives for a term of office of two years, one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate for a term of office of two years, and one shall be appointed by the Kansas Bioscience Authority for a term of office of one year.

Members of the first board shall be appointed by August 1, 2007. Subsequent terms of members of the board shall be for four years.

No more than three voting members shall be appointed from any one congressional district.

All voting members of the board shall be subject to senate confirmation as provided in K.S.A. 75-4315b and amendments thereto. Any member of the board whose nomination is subject to confirmation during a regular session of the legislature shall be deemed terminated when the senate rejects the nomination. No such termination shall affect the validity of any action taken by such member of the board before such termination.

[Based on K.S.A. 74-99b04]