

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:05 A.M. on March 7, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative Marti Crow, excused
- Representative Ted Powers, excused
- Representative Steve Huebert, excused
- Representative Ben Hodge, absent

Committee staff present:

- Theresa Kiernan, Office of Revisor of Statutes
- Dianne Rosell, Office of Revisor of Statutes
- Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education
- Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- Representative Sydney Carlin
- Martin Dempsey, Department of Defense, Regional Quality of Life Liaison for Kansas
- Ron Walker, Superintendent, Geary County, USD 475
- Captain Adam Johnson, National Guard Education Services Office
- Major Jason Nelson, Executive Officer, Pittsburg State University, ROTC program
- Dr. Clayton Tatro, President, Fort Scott Community College
- Written testimony - Diane Lindeman, Director of Student Financial Aid, Kansas Board of Regents

SB 421: School districts; concurrent enrollment; pupils in grade 10

Dr. Gary George, Olathe School District, furnished written testimony on **SB 421** in response to questions from Committee members during the meeting of March 6, 2008. (Attachment 1)

HB 2714: Interstate compact on education opportunity for military children

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor, Office of the Revisor's Office, gave an overview of **HB 2714**.

Representative Sydney Carlin spoke to Committee members in support of HB 2714 and gave an overview of the Interstate Compact information and how it works. Representative Carlin stated the compact seeks to facilitate equal educational opportunity for the children of military members in four major areas:

- Enrollment
- Eligibility
- Placement
- Graduation

Representative Carlin further stated the compact attempts to establish a 'common denominator' among the member states which will remove existing barriers to timely completion of the public education process for these students who by virtue of the decision and commitment of their parent to serve our country are, in many cases, being unfairly penalized. (Attachment 2)

Martin Dempsey, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Army Quality of Life Regional Liaison, Military Community and Family Policy, spoke to Committee members in support of **HB 2714**. Mr. Dempsey told Committee members the *Compact* is an agreement among member states to a set of practices that will allow for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and between states. The Interstate Compact does not ask for special privileges for military children; only that states create a level playing field, and work cooperatively to make it happen. (Attachment 3)

Ronald Walker, Superintendent, Geary County USD 475, spoke to Committee members in support of **HB 2714**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:05 A.M. on March 7, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Superintendent Walker told Committee members the Compact seeks to provide consistency for dependents of military families as they serve our country. (Attachment 4)

John Deegan, Executive Director, Military Impacted Schools Association, provided written testimony in support of HB 2714. (Attachment 5)

Keith Scott, Director, National Center for Interstate Compacts, provided written testimony in support of HB 2714. (Attachment 6)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

The Chairman closed the hearing on HB 2714.

SB 437: ROTC service scholarships; community colleges

Theresa Kiernan, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, gave an overview of SB 437 to Committee members.

Captain Adam Johnson, Education Services Officer, Kansas Army National Guard, and Major Jason Nelson, Assistant Professor of Military Science, Pittsburg State University, Army ROTC, spoke to Committee members in support of SB 437. (Attachment 7)

Captain Johnson told Committee members they were seeking to amend verbiage to Statute 74-3255 to enhance the Kansas Army National Guard (KASNG) Officer recruiting base and improve upon our number of officers for future needs. This would further enable the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Departments within Kansas to use more, or all, of their available funding.

Major Nelson spoke to Committee members of the process of Pittsburg State University Army ROTC Department teaching Military Science courses to those students at Fort Scott Community College with the intent that they would matriculate to a Regents University upon completion of their two years at a community college. He further stated the intent of the bill is to simply change the wording of the statute to allow all three Army ROTC schools, University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Pittsburg State University to utilize this scholarship opportunity for those students who initially attend a community college.

Dr. Clayton Tatro, President, Fort Scott Community College, spoke to Committee member in support of SB 437. President Tatro stated that with the option provided in SB 437, as amended, these community college students will now be eligible to participate in the KBOR ROTC Scholarship program. (Attachment 8)

Diane Lindeman, Director of Student Financial Assistance, Kansas Board of Regents, spoke to Committee members in a neutral position regarding SB 437. (Attachment 9)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

Chairman Aurand closed the hearing on SB 437.

SB 421: School districts; concurrent enrollment; pupils in grade 10.

Representative Colloton made the motion for SB 421 to be reported favorably for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Spalding. After a brief discussion, the motion carried.

SB 507: METS education innovation council; members; duties.

It was the consensus of the Committee to postpone working the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2008.



March 6, 2008

TO: Chairman Aurand and Members of the House Education Committee

FROM: Gary George, Assistant Superintendent of Schools *GG*

RE: Additional Information Regarding Senate Bill 421

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 421. Because of the many questions from this morning's testimony, I thought it would be helpful if I provided additional information for the Committee in a question and answer format.

1. What courses are available for dual credit?

- AP/Honors English: Literature and Composition
- AP/Honors American History I and II
- AP/Honors American Government
- Advanced Psychology
- AP/Honors Analytic Geometry/Calculus I
- AP Chemistry
- College Chemistry
- AP Biology
- College biology
- College Physics
- German III, IV
- French IV, V
- Spanish IV,V
- Latin III
- C++Programming
- Java
- Microcomputer A+ Certification
- Networking Technologies
- Introduction to Routers

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2. Are there minimum requirements to take these dual credit courses?

For English, a student must take the ACT and score at least 19 on the English subsection. In calculus, chemistry and physics, a student must take the ACT and score at least 26 on the math portion of the test or 590 on the math section of the SAT.

3. How many credits of dual credit can a student transfer into a Kansas Regents college?

The Board of Regents will accept no more that 24 credits. I misspoke during the testimony and indicated that 30 credits could be transferred. This was an error.

4. How many Olathe high schools students are taking College Now (dual credit) courses?

We have 238 students from Olathe East, 119 students from Olathe North, 146 students from Olathe Northwest and 171 students from Olathe South. All of these courses are offered in our local high schools and taught by an Olathe School District teacher.

5. Do the Olathe School District teachers have to meet certain criteria to teach these courses?

Yes, they must meet the same requirements of the college department/division that are required for adjunct instructor status at the junior college. In addition, teachers use the same course syllabus and text in the classes. In some classes, they use the same exams.

The Olathe School District also offers a program with Johnson County Community College (JCCC) called Quick Step. This program allows junior and seniors to enroll in JCCC classes on the JCCC campus. We have 38 students from all four high schools involved in this program. It is not as popular as the College Now courses.

Senate Bill 421 would allow a few students who are highly motivated and bright, but not necessarily gifted, to access dual credit programs. If Senate Bill 421 becomes law, a grade 10 student and his/her parents would have to make a decision as to whether a dual credit program such as College Now is appropriate. Further, grade 10 students have to meet the prerequisites to be accepted. Finally, the Kansas Board of Regents can control how many credits they will accept from these programs.

We believe Senate Bill 421 expands educational opportunities for highly capable grade 10 students and urge your support of this bill.

If we can answer any further questions for the Committee, please feel free to contact me.

STATE OF KANSAS

Sydney Carlin
REPRESENTATIVE, 66TH DISTRICT
1650 Sunny Slope Lane
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-296-7651



HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

Committee Assignments:
Appropriations
Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

March 7, 2008

Honorable Chairman Clay Aurand
And members of the House Education Committee

I come here today to introduce you to HB 2714, Re: Interstate Compact On Educational Opportunity for Military Children

I would like to give you just a quick overview of the Interstate Compact information how it works, what it is, etc. This is very important to the school districts, families and children who are transferred from school to school and state to state by the military.

This Compact seeks to facilitate equal educational opportunity for the children of military members in four (4) major areas: 1) Enrollment; 2) Eligibility; 3) Placement; and 4) Graduation. For example:

Enrollment

To facilitate the enrollment of a transferred child the Compact provides that the receiving state school will accept an unofficial hand-delivered copy of the educational record from the parent if no "certified record" is available and gives the sending state ten (10) days after receipt of the request from the receiving state school to transfer the "official" record.

Eligibility

The compact recognizes that children of deployed military members should be provided with a reasonable opportunity to be included in extracurricular activities in the event of a missed tryout or induction process if the student is otherwise qualified.

Placement

Under the Compact there is a presumption that the sending state's placement was correct and that the student will be continued in that placement if the receiving state offers equivalent courses. However the receiving state may subsequently conduct its own testing of the student and reevaluate & change such placement on that basis after the student has transferred to the new school district. The Compact also recognizes the

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special education services already required under federal law through IDEA, ICP and ADA. The compact allows some flexibility for deployment related absences.

Graduation

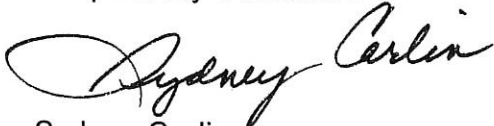
The Compact provides that the states will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the transfer of equivalent courses to facilitate on time graduation including consideration of alternative exit exam requirements being met if the student has successfully completed another national norm-referenced achievement test for those students approaching graduation. If the foregoing steps are not reasonably possible, as an alternative, the receiving state will cooperate with the sending state in order to facilitate graduation in the sending state.

Funding

The member states will establish the funding of the compact which will include determining what the operating costs are and how each state will contribute. The compact specifically prohibits the pledging of credit of any member state to subsidize the compact unless funds are legislatively appropriated to do so. It is probable that the states will limit the budget of the compact to reflect the current negative economic conditions which all states face. Based upon DOD figures regarding the numbers of military children ages K-12 and the estimated budget for a compact structure such as that proposed, the estimated cost is approximately \$1.00/child. In the case of Kansas, the number of affected children is approximately 19,770 which would equate to a dues estimate of approximately \$19,770.00. If ten states adopt the compact in 2008 which would 'activate' it, it is likely that no funding would be requested until the '09 or '10 fiscal year given the required organizational activities, establishment of the interstate commission and related activities.

In summary, the compact attempts to establish a 'common denominator' among the member states which will remove existing barriers to timely completion of the public education process for these students who by virtue of the decision and commitment of their parent to serve our country are, in many cases, being unfairly penalized.

Respectfully Submitted



Sydney Carlin
State Representative, 66th District

Statement of

Martin Dempsey

**Quality of Life Regional Liaison
DoD-State Liaison Office**

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy

**INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
FOR MILITARY CHILDREN**

March 07, 2008

House Education Committee

Date 3-7-08

Attachment # 3

The Department of Defense State Liaison Office operates under the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Under Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of military families.

Martin Dempsey

Mr. Dempsey joined the DoD-State Liaison Office as a Regional Liaison in 2006. In his position, Mr. Dempsey monitors quality of life issues for military families in MO, KS, KY, TN and IA. Before coming to work in the State Liaison Office, he worked family programs as an active member of the military for 24 years. In that capacity, he learned first hand of the educational challenges the children of our military members face as they encounter frequent school moves.

Testimony

Honorable Chairman and members of this Committee, on behalf of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today on the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*. DoD, in conjunction with the Council of State Governments, and 18 stake holding organizations, including the National Association of Elementary School Principals, National School Boards Association, the National Parent Teachers Association, the National Education Association, the state departments of education in California, Florida, Maryland, and state government reps from Nevada, North Carolina, and Alabama, over a two year period created this compact to address the educational challenges of military students who frequently transition from school to school around the world.

My name is Martin Dempsey and I work for the Department of Defense State Liaison Office as a Quality of Life Regional Liaison. I also have spent a large part of my professional 26 year career working family programs in the Department of Defense. As a military veteran and a father of two, whose children grew up in the military, I know first hand about the challenges that the children of our military members face as they encounter frequent school moves. These challenges are of utmost importance to military families, and are consistently listed as among their top family concerns as they work to serve our nation in the Armed Forces. On average, most military children will move at least twice during their high school years, and most will attend six to nine different school systems between kindergarten and 12th grade. Every year, 25 to 30% of those soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guard are reassigned; many of these service members have school age kids moving in and out of Kansas, attending schools in school districts on and off post and base. This compact is as much about the sending state-KS- as the receiving states they moved to, to continue their educations.

These frequent moves result in some educational obstacles. Though many states, including Kansas, have made progress in addressing these educational concerns, there is a lack of consistency *between* states that continues to create difficulties for our military families. Some of these recurring issues include kindergarten start age, participation in extracurricular activities, immunizations, timely transfer of records, placement in appropriate courses, missed or redundant entrance and exit testing support for children of deployed service members, and on-time graduation. Though one state may do several things right, the next move to another state can create a new set of problems since the

procedures are not the same These issues are addressed in the *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*.

The *Compact* is an agreement among member states to a set of practices that will allow for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and between states. The Interstate Compact does not ask for special privileges for military children; only that states create a level playing field, and work cooperatively to make it happen. Military children often end up making sacrifices because their parent's are serving our country. The language and intent of the Compact will provide consistency for our military children as they move from state to state and alleviate some of the hardship they encounter.

Though there has been some discussion among members of Congress to introduce such guidelines on a federal level, which would then be implemented by states, DoD believes states are the appropriate entities to determine and execute this type of policy in a cooperative, multi-state manner. Thankfully, many state leaders recognize this also. Some fifteen states have already introduced the Compact legislation, and it appears to already be moving forward in many of them. Many more states are expected to introduce the legislation in 2008. When ten states have adopted it, the Compact will go into effect, and rules and detail procedures will begin to be established by the participating states. It would be in the interest of a state to be among the initiating states so that they could be a part of the first rule making process. (States, no matter when they join, will still be a part of the rule making process; simply less rules to be made by then.)

Both the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Under Secretary fully support this compact and they are very excited about the possibilities it offers in improving the quality of life for all military students.

Thank you! I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and look forward to Kansas' leadership in adopting this vital compact supporting our military children. Of course, I stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted

Martin Dempsey
Army Quality of Life Regional Liaison
Military Community & Family Policy
OSD-State Liaison Office

Ronald P. Walker, Superintendent

Geary County Unified School District #475

123 N. Eisenhower, * Junction City, KS 66441-0370 * (785)717-4000 * fax (785)717-4004

March 7, 2008

Honorable Representative Clay Aurand, Chairperson
Kansas House of Representatives
Education Committee

Dear Representative Aurand,

It is with pleasure I speak on behalf of **HB 2714**—Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children. The Interstate Compact is an idea proposed by the Council of State Governments, the Department of Defense and supported by the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) and the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS). I have the good fortune to serve on the national board for NAFIS.

The Compact seeks to provide consistency for dependents of military families as they serve our country. Many of the families will have more than twelve documented moves as their children attend grades K-12. These moves often times are from state to state within the United States. Some of the moves will take the family to countries such as Germany, Japan, and Korea. These moves by themselves are difficult for the entire family but especially tough for the children.

To complicate the moves, some states and school districts add additional burdens by placing restrictions on classes and extra-curricular activities in which students are able to participate. Some states require their state history even for seniors who move into a school district. Others place restrictions on the length of time a student must be in the district to take advanced placement courses, join the honor society, or become the valedictorian or salutatorian. These restrictions simply add to stress levels of students and families.

We are fortunate in Kansas that many of these restrictions have not existed for over a decade. However, not every state is as proactive as Kansas. We understand and implement best practices. The Compact seeks to provide some consistency among states that are willing to provide legislative support to students of military families and to do so through the legislative process. Passage of **HB 2714** sends a strong signal to the Department of Defense and all of the United States of America that Kansas is yet again ahead of the pack. Passage officially confirms our current practices for quality education of all students.

As legislators, you have consistently shown support for military students and families through the passage of many military friendly bills. Kansas is a national leader and strong supporter of those who so courageously put their lives on the line in support of our freedom.

The fiscal note on **HB 2714** is very small but the impact for military students is gigantic! As superintendent of Geary County USD 475, well over 4,500 of our 7,000 students represent military dependents! Throughout Kansas there are several school districts serving the military. We all meet together on a regular basis as we strive to remain leaders in the education of the children of heroes.

I thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of **HB2714**. Your support for this bill is greatly appreciated. I will be happy to answer questions.

Sincerely,



Ronald P. Walker, Superintendent

House Education Committee
Date 3-7-08
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Military Impacted Schools Association
... supporting the educational needs of military families
(800) 291-MISA • www.MilitaryImpactedSchoolsAssociation.org

February, 2008

The Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA) is comprised of over sixty school districts with a military student enrollment of 20 percent or greater. We serve the majority of federal children with parents in all branches of the services and at the federal level and represent the views of what needs to be done for all military children and their families. MISA has been working with the Council of State Governments, DoD and other military affiliated organizations on developing a social compact to address issues faced by military families due to transition and deployment.

The areas addressed in the social compact are typically best practices for heavily impacted school districts. These are areas where we have been able to develop solutions to do what is right for our military children. A few states enacted legislation that prevented school districts from being able to address a particular need for military children. The social compact addresses most of those special circumstances.

MISA believes that education is a state and local responsibility. We do not believe that federal legislation is appropriate to address the needs outlined. While our heavily impacted school districts work to make sure that a military child is not penalized when a parent is transferred to and from a military installation or is facing deployment, school districts that serve small numbers of military students may not understand the sensitivity or potential solutions that could solve the families concerns. This legislation should help in these circumstances.

MISA recognizes your efforts to address the needs of military children. We support the interstate compact's educational opportunities to address the needs of military children and their families. MISA encourages you to work closely with school districts that serve military installations as they will be able to articulate some of the concerns and provide solutions that can assist all school districts. The concept of a state compact is a great alternative to federal legislation and should address barriers faced by military families due to transition and deployment.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me at (402) 293-4005.

Sincerely,

John F. Deegan, Ed.D.
Executive Director

House Education Committee
Date 3-7-08
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Sharing capitol ideas.

President Governor M. Jodi Rell, Conn.
Chair Representative Kim Koppelman, N.D.
Executive Director Daniel M. Sprague

March 7, 2008

Chair and Members of the Education Committee
Kansas House of Representatives

Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee, this interstate compact is the culmination of a joint effort by The Council of State Governments (CSG) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to address problems encountered by children in grades K-12 who must transfer from one state public school district to another because one or both parents are deployed members of the U.S. military. To give input into the drafting process stakeholders involved in public school education in this country served as an advisory group which directed the work of the drafting team. These groups included, but are not limited to, The National School Boards Association, The National Association of State Boards of Education, the National Education Association, The National Association of Elementary School Principals, The National PTA, The Military Impacted Schools Association, and the Education Commission of the States.

In order to provide the desired uniformity to facilitate the transfer of these students from one state to another a compact mechanism is employed which will become effective upon the enactment of at least ten (10) states. Since January of this year eighteen (18) states have introduced the bill and more introductions are expected.

Interstate compacts are a time tested and court tested means of resolving interstate problems which are authorized under Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. In our country's 220 year history some 200 compacts have been adopted of which Kansas is a member of approximately thirty-four (34), including three (3) education compacts.

Interstate compacts have been used for three primary purposes: 1) Boundary disputes between states' 2) Management of environmental resources 3) regulatory compacts which apply to a wide variety of multi-state problems including transportation, insurance regulation, taxation, interstate placement of foster and adopted children, criminal justice and corrections matters such as the transfer of adult offenders across state lines, and education. Compacts allow the states to exercise collective control over matters which are traditionally regulated by the states without surrendering state control to the federal government. Interstate compacts allow the states to avoid the problem of 'fifty (50) different sets of rules' with which to solve interstate problems by providing a uniform approach which is still subject to joint state authority.

The Council of State Governments

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House Education Committee

Date 3-7-08

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Attachment # 6

CSG has been a supporter and facilitator of interstate cooperation and interstate compacts throughout its 75 year history. While there have been various unilateral efforts by various states to attempt to address these problems, it is still the case that uniformity among the states on these issues has not been achieved and cannot be enforced except through either collective action by the states acting through an interstate compact mechanism, or federal intervention by Congress. Of these two methods, the only way that uniformity can be achieved, while maintaining collective state control is through the compact device. In this manner the Compact could actually preserve state sovereignty by making it unnecessary for the U.S. Congress to impose uniformity through federally mandated legislation that often dictates unfunded and rigid requirements. There has been some discussion among members of Congress to introduce such guidelines on a federal level.

This Compact seeks to facilitate equal educational opportunity for the children of military members in four (4) major areas: 1) Enrollment; 2) Eligibility; 3) Placement; and 4) Graduation. For example:

To facilitate the enrollment of a transferred child the Compact provides that the receiving state school will accept an unofficial hand-delivered copy of the educational record from the parent if no "certified record" is available and gives the sending state ten (10) days after receipt of the request from the receiving state school to transfer the "official" record.

The compact recognizes that children of deployed military members should be provided with a reasonable opportunity to be included in extracurricular activities in the event of a missed tryout or induction process if the student is otherwise qualified.

Under the Compact there is a presumption that the sending state's placement was correct and that the student will be continued in that placement if the receiving state offers equivalent courses. However the receiving state may subsequently conduct its own testing of the student and reevaluate & change such placement on that basis after the student has transferred to the new school district. The Compact also recognizes the special education services already required under federal law through IDEA, ICP and ADA. The compact allows some flexibility for deployment related absences.

The Compact provides that the states will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the transfer of equivalent courses to facilitate on time graduation including consideration of alternative exit exam requirements being met if the student has successfully completed another national norm-referenced achievement test for those students approaching graduation. If the foregoing steps are not reasonably possible, as an alternative, the receiving state will cooperate with the sending state in order to facilitate graduation in the sending state.

The member states will establish the funding of the compact which will include determining what the operating costs are and how each state will contribute. The compact specifically prohibits the pledging of credit of any member state to subsidize the compact unless funds are legislatively appropriated to do so. It is probable that the states will limit the budget of the compact to reflect the current negative economic conditions which all states face. Based upon DOD figures regarding the numbers of military children ages K-12 and the estimated budget for a compact structure such as that proposed, the estimated cost is approximately \$1.00/child. In the case of Kansas, the number of affected children is approximately 19,770 which would equate to a dues estimate of approximately \$19,770.00. If ten states adopt the compact in 2008 which would 'activate' it, it is likely that no funding would be requested until the '09 or '10 fiscal year given the required organizational activities, establishment of the interstate commission and related activities.

In summary, the compact attempts to establish a 'common denominator' among the member states which will remove existing barriers to timely completion of the public education process for these students who by virtue of the decision and commitment of their parent to serve our country are, in many cases, being unfairly penalized.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee about this important public

Keith A Scott
Director, National Center for Interstate Compacts

Testimony on Senate Bill 437

To the Legislative Education Planning Committee

Major Jason Nelson
Assistant Professor of Military Science,
Pittsburg State University Army ROTC

Captain Adam Johnson
Education Services Officer
Kansas Army National Guard

Friday March 7, 2008

Mr. Chairperson and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Kansas Army National Guard's (KSARNG) request to amend Kansas Statute 74-3255. Your consent will enable the Kansas Army National Guard to overcome a historical shortfall in officer strength: The standards for each state are determined by the National Guard Bureau (NGB).

Our bottom line is this: We are not asking for money; instead we seek to amend verbiage to Statute 74-3255 to enhance the KSNG Officer recruiting base and improve upon our number of officers for future needs. This will further enable the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Departments within Kansas to use more, or all, of their available funding.

Enclosed is historical data to support our request. In short, Kansas has not met the NGB standard for a number of years. Data illustrates that since 2001, on average, we have been 158 officers short of meeting NGB's goal. In 2007 alone we lost 55 officers and gained only three. In relation to the other 54 states and territories, the KSNG is ranked 50th in overall officer strength, 52nd in officer gains, and 23rd in officer losses. Over the next five to ten years, 117 Field Grade Officers (Major – Lieutenant Colonel) and Senior Officers (Colonel) will reach their Mandatory Retirement Date. That is currently 50% of our current senior level officers and 23% of our entire officer corps!

The strategic impact from the loss of these senior level officers is that our Company Grade (Lieutenant – Captain) Officers must fill that void resulting in the possibility that the KSNG may not have a sufficient number of officers to fill vacancies for Lieutenant – Captain. The first ripple of this leadership void will affect our current Lieutenants through Captains who will be hastily promoted to fill the vacancies left by the mass exodus of Field Grade level officers (Majors through Lieutenant Colonel). Consequently, this will create the significant leadership void we are attempting to prevent; which are the ominous vacancies of Lieutenants through Captain. This poses a great challenge because these vacant positions are the very people that oversee our enlisted soldiers who need to be trained to fight, supervised, and managed on a daily basis. A shortcoming in having enough of these Lieutenants through Captains is absolutely vital to the success of the KSNG. Without them, we will be stretching our personnel to their breaking point; which will reduce the retention of all soldiers.

To circumvent this possibility, our proposal is to draw from a larger pool of civilians, and current soldiers. In order for us to proceed with this initiative, we need legislative permission to recruit from a wider array of college bound graduates. For example, we hope to improve upon the status quo by recruiting future Army Officers from Kansas community colleges. This action will propel us forward for the foreseeable future as we continue our mission to meet the NGB strength standard. Your

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consent will help us close the gap that we have historically not been able to consistently attain and prevent a significant void in the Kansas Army National Guard leadership.

This process began when the Pittsburg State University (PSU) Army ROTC Department first investigated teaching Military Science courses to those students at Fort Scott Community College (FSCC), with the intent that they will matriculate to a Regents University upon completion of their two years at a community college. We decided to initially utilize FSCC as the test school due to its proximity to Pittsburg State University. After our initial meetings with PSU and FSCC Administrations, it was decided to try our initial offering of the class during the fall 2007 semester. Last semester, we had an enrollment of 14 students, with several of those students being current members of the KSARNG. As we began to talk to those students about continuing in ROTC and becoming Army Officers for the KSARNG, we discovered that many of them would benefit from the Kansas Board of Regents Service Scholarship. These conversations are what drove us to begin investigating the current Statutes, and understanding the limitations of the scholarship.

Per K.S.A. 74-3255, an "ROTC Institution" means a state educational institution or municipal university that provides a reserve officer' training corps program. This definition excludes the community colleges, as they are defined as a "Kansas educational institution", which means and includes area vocational schools, area vocational-technical schools, community colleges, the municipal university, state educational institutions, technical colleges, and accredited independent institutions.", per K.S.A. 74-32,146.


In no way do we wish to violate, or alter, the integrity of the Kansas Board of Regents, we simply wish to change the wording of the Statute to allow all three Army ROTC schools, University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Pittsburg State University, to utilize this great scholarship opportunity for those students who initially attend a community college. We also do not wish to "steal" students from any community college and immediately transfer them to a Regents University. We seek approval of this bill as an opportunity for students to initially attend a community college prior to transferring to a Regents University. In addition it is as an opportunity for any community college to assist themselves in the recruitment of talented young men and women, both academically and athletically.

I appreciate your time and consideration on this bill, as well as your overall support of the KSARNG. I would be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

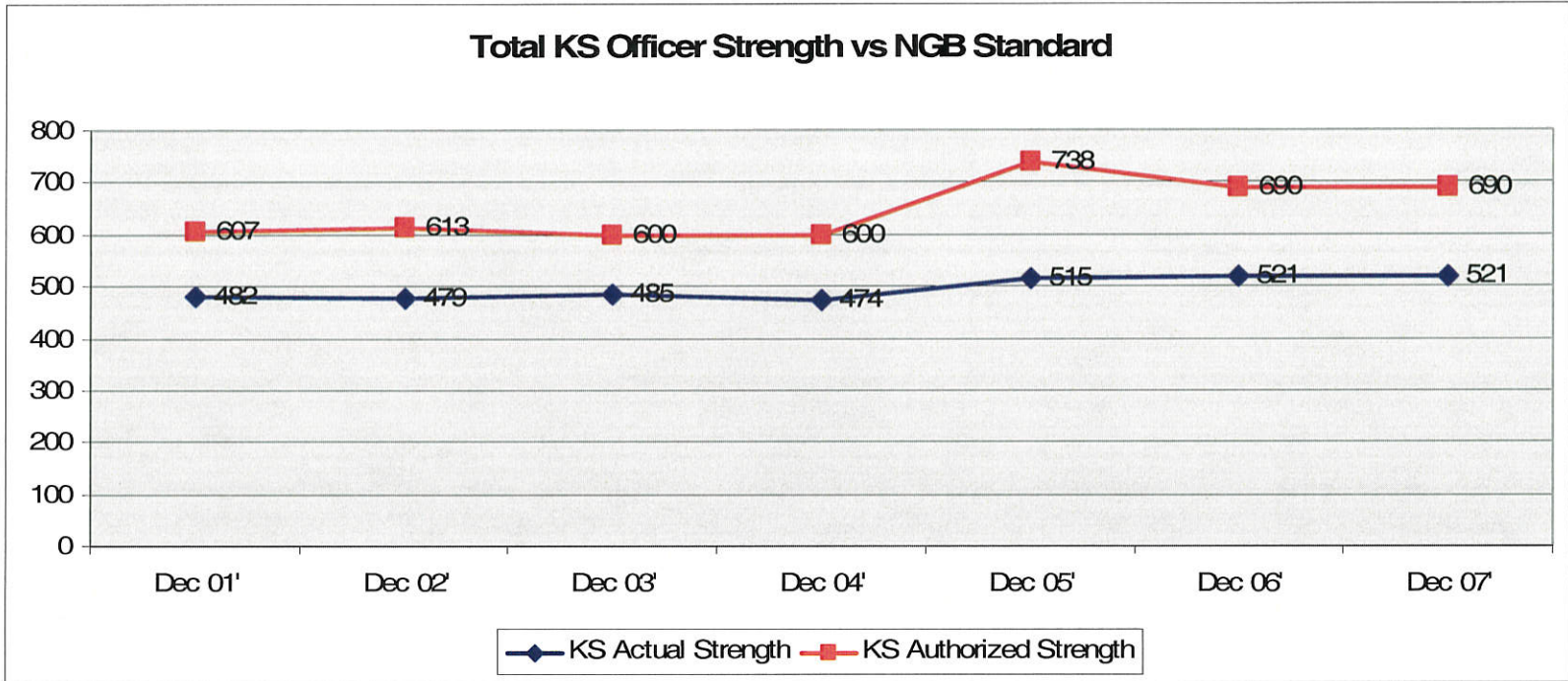
Respectfully Submitted,

Encl :
Officer Strength Historical Data


JASON P. NELSON
MAJ, AR, KSARNG
Assistant Professor of Military Science
Pittsburg State University ROTC

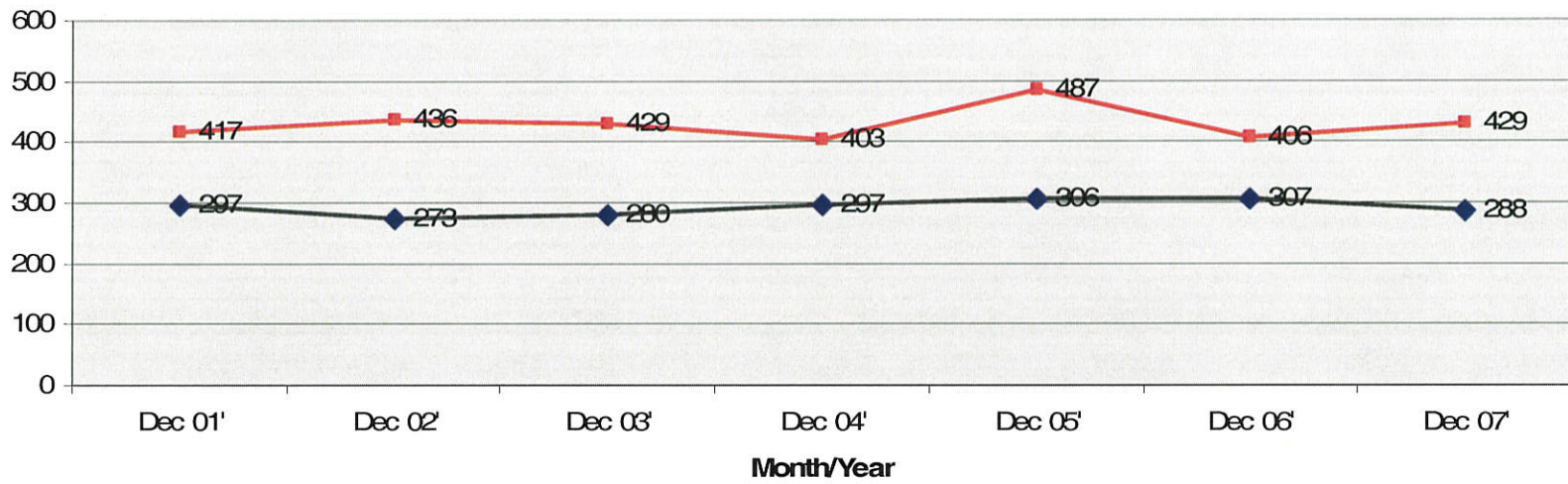

ADAM L. JOHNSON
CPT, IN
Education Services Officer

1-3



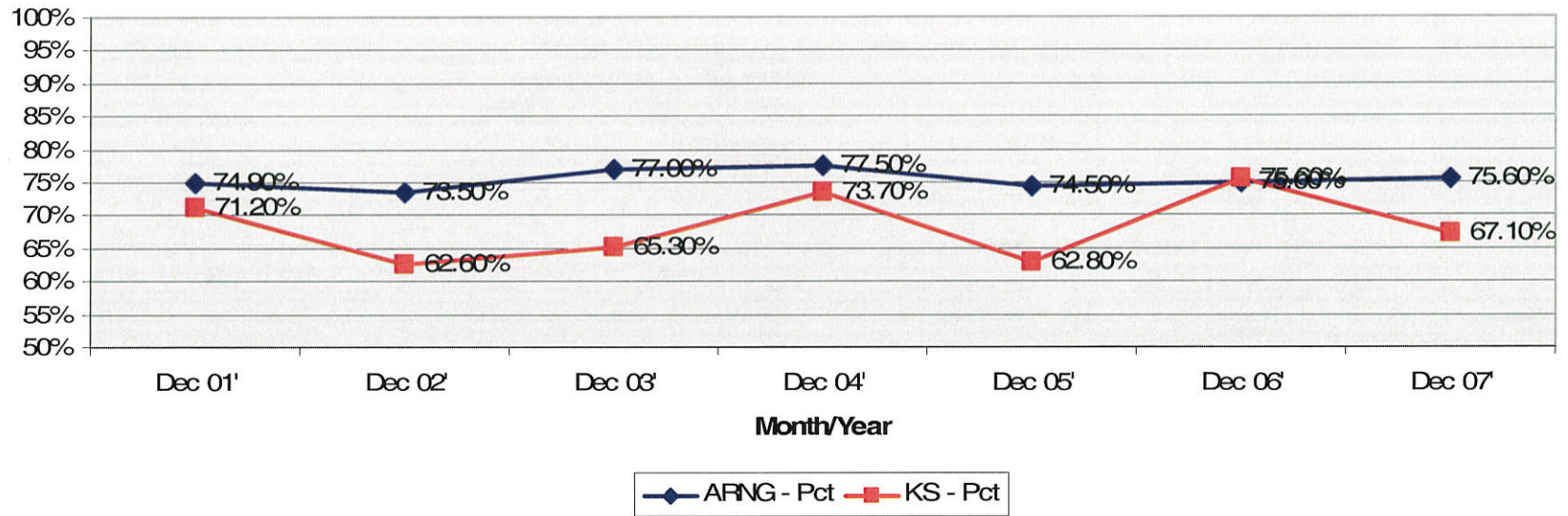
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Kansas Company Grade Officer Strength (Lieutenant - Captain) vs NGB Standard



—◆— KS Actual Strength —■— KS Authorized Strength

KS Company Grade Officer Strength vs NGB Average of all 54 States/Territories





KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES

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MEMO

TO: House Education Committee
From: Dr. Clayton Tatro, President
Fort Scott Community College
Date: March 7, 2008
Regarding: SB 437

Chairman Aurand and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the nineteen community colleges regarding SB 437. My name is Clayton Tatro, President at Fort Scott Community College.

This bill, as amended by the Senate Education Committee, will allow existing University ROTC programs to enter into an agreement with community colleges that are geographically near-by and to provide ROTC Training for our community college students. As the ROTC and National Guard leadership has (or will) indicated, there is a great need to develop new military leaders, and we believe there are community college students who will meet these high standards and be very successful in the programs.

To give you a bit of history, Fort Scott Community College has an agreement with Pittsburg State University for just such a program. This past year (Fall 2007 and Spring 2008) 18 FSCC students have enrolled in this program and have taken advantage of the leadership opportunities afforded them by Pittsburg State's ROTC program. Working directly with Lieutenant Colonel Scott Craig and Major Jason Nelson, I have been made aware that two of the 18 FSCC students intend to "sign on" with Pitt State for the full-scale ROTC program.

With the option provided in SB 437, as amended, these community college students will now be eligible to participate in the KBOR ROTC Scholarship program. I know that Pittsburg State plans to continue this partnership with Fort Scott Community College; and, the university is finalizing plans to extend their program initially to Neosho County Community College and Allen County Community College. It is my understanding Kansas State University is having similar conversations with Cloud County Community College and Kansas University with Johnson County Community College.

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It is important to note that with the Senate amendment there is no fiscal note for these ROTC Scholarships. Community college students can be awarded the scholarship as long as there are funds available. The Board of Regents will be asked to assist with the memorandum of agreement process between the participating university and participating community college. While this process will not allow for students at all community colleges to participate initially, it can be viewed as a "pilot program" which can be reviewed for success and considered for further student involvement in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I know Fort Scott Community College is eager to continue our working relationship with Pittsburg State University; and, in conversations with my colleagues at other community colleges, I believe there will be other, similarly successful programs in the future.

I will be glad to respond to any questions or insights you may have.



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

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March 7, 2008

Representative Clay Aurand, Chairman
House Education Committee
Statehouse, Room 142-W
Topeka, KS 66612

Representative Sue Storm, Ranking Member
House Education Committee
Statehouse, Room 421-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Aurand and Ranking Member Storm:

On behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents, I write to you regarding Senate Bill 437, legislation that would amend the current ROTC Service Scholarship program by adding community colleges to the definition of eligible schools that students may be enrolled in order to receive the scholarship. Currently, only the six state universities and Washburn University are statutorily defined as eligible schools. As you may know, Senate Bill 437 was unanimously approved by the Senate on February 21.

The ROTC Scholarship is available to Kansas residents who are enrolled in good standing and are qualified for participation in the ROTC program at that institution. Currently, ROTC programs in Kansas are located at Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, and the University of Kansas. The current amount of the scholarship shall not exceed 70% of the average amount of the cost of attendance at the state educational institutions for an academic year. Students must be enrolled full-time in at least 12 credit hours each semester, participate in the campus ROTC program, and immediately upon graduation accept a commission as a second lieutenant and serve for not less than four years as a commissioned officer in the Kansas National Guard. If the student fails to become a commissioned officer for the required four-year period, they must repay to the state the amount of the scholarship assistance that they have received plus interest.

The current ROTC Scholarship program has \$186,401 appropriated for scholarships. So far, during Fiscal Year 2008, 19 students have been awarded for a total of \$108,440. In a recent survey of community colleges it was estimated that 110 interested students may potentially be added to this scholarship program if community colleges students were to be included. The average scholarship award during Fiscal Year 2008 has been \$4,500. If the majority of returning students were to be awarded, in addition to new students, it is estimated that \$495,000 would be needed to fully award students through this program for Fiscal Year 2009.

In addition, Senate Bill 437 was amended to include the Military Service Scholarship Program. This program, which was originally established last year through an appropriations proviso, awards scholarships to Kansas residents who have served in military service in Iraq,

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Afghanistan, or on foreign soil or in international waters in support of military operations in Iraq or Afghanistan for 90 days, or less than 90 days because of injuries received, following September 11, 2001. It also includes individuals who have received an honorable discharge or served in the military operations of Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, or Iraqi Freedom. Thus far, this program has enabled the Board to provide scholarship assistance to 96 students at 11 postsecondary educational institutions for an estimated total of \$480,000.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 437.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Lindeman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Diane Lindeman
Director of Student Financial Assistance