

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Melvin Neufeld at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 2009, in Room 143-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Steve Brunk- excused
Representative Mike Peterson- excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dan McLaughlin, Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office

Others attending:

See attached list.

Dan McLaughlin, Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office (Attachment 1)

Representative Kiegrl moved for the introduction of legislation regarding the PACE program. Motion was seconded by Representative Olson. Motion carried.

Representative Ruiz moved for the introduction of legislation regarding "Kate's law" for autistic children. Motion was seconded by Representative Tietze. Motion carried.

Hearing on SB 187 - State fire marshal commissioned inspector act; state educational institutions

Fire Marshal Dan McLaughlin requested legislation which seeks the statutory authority to continue the commissioned inspector program which has been in operation since 1997 (Attachment 1). The agreement would establish boundaries, inspection types, enforcement activities, local jurisdiction, and other parameters as required. The Fire Marshal's Office was advised by the Attorney General which serves as their counsel to seek the proper authority to run this program. The Board of Regents is in favor of this bill.

There were no other proponents nor opponents for the bill.

Chairman Neufeld closed the hearing on **SB 187**.

Representative Kiegrl moved for the favorable passage of the bill. Motion was seconded by Representative Olson.

Representative Loganbill moved for a substitute motion which would place the bill on the Consent Calendar. Motion was seconded by Representative Olson. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2009.

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



K A N S A S

DAN McLAUGHLIN
FIRE MARSHAL

OFFICE OF THE KANSAS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS
GOVERNOR

Testimony before the Federal and State Affairs Committee

By Dan McLaughlin, Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office

March 4, 2009

The proposed legislation Senate Bill 187 concerning the Commissioned Inspectors is an act that gives authorization of Commissioned Inspectors agreements between state educational institutions, Regent universities, and the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The purpose is to increase the level of fire and life safety conditions for the people who live, work, occupy, and visit these facilities, as well as personnel and economic efficiency of state agencies.

The goal is to provide state managed facilities with individuals, trained by Kansas State Fire Marshal, to perform required fire inspections in his/her facility and coordinate the findings with the local fire chief and the State Fire Marshal's Office.

The agreement would establish boundaries, inspection types, enforcement activities, local jurisdiction, and other parameters as required.

The program is directed at individuals who already work in the state universities, who already have some degree of reasonability of maintaining the buildings. The positions are voluntary and would receive no compensation. The candidate would have to meet certain requirements established by Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office before the commission is accepted.

This bill would grant the Kansas State Fire Marshal the authority to appoint personnel to perform these types of tasks. However, please note that the local fire departments, the state regent schools, and Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office would all agree on the commissioned inspectors agreements and would work collaboratively together to ensure a successful program.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office has had the commissioned inspector program in effect since 1997. We were advised by the AG (or Counsel) in 2008 that Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office did not have the proper authority to run this program. Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office along with the local fire departments and the Regent universities are seeking the statutorily authority to continue this program.