

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 1:30 p.m. on March 5, 2009, in Room 786 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe McLeland- excused

Committee staff present:

Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jennifer Horchem, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Duane Custer, Director, Salina Area Technical College

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on SB 131 - Technical colleges; change in name or designation

Chairman Huntington opened the hearing on **SB 131**. Renae Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that this bill creates a new section which would give the governing body of a technical college the power to change the name of the technical college by adoption of a resolution. If the name is changed by resolution, any designation pertaining to the technical college in any contract or other document or by statute as such statute existed prior to July 1, 2009, shall be construed to mean the name as provided in the resolution. There is no fiscal effect on the State Board of Regents. (Attachment 1)

Duane Custer, Director, Salina Area Technical College, on behalf of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges, testified in support of **SB 131**. He explained that when Kansas established technical schools in the mid-1960's, which were governed by local school districts, the names of the technical schools became part of the approved legislation. Over the years legislation allowed the school districts to change those names, however, the new names had to be legislatively changed individually. He said this legislation by no means has the intent of changing their scope as technical colleges, only the ability for the local governing board to change the name of the institution and to allow the board to determine that designation without having to enter the new name into a legislative bill. (Attachment 2)

As there were no other conferees, the hearing on **SB 131** was closed.

Discussion on HB 2252 - Postsecondary technical education, funding

Chairman Huntington opened discussion on **HB 2252**, requesting committee comments.

It was suggested that the committee advise the three schools--Pratt Community College, Cowley County Community College, and Dodge City Community College--to go to the House Appropriations Committee for one-year money. The House Education Budget Committee should be advised of the situation. It was felt the committee should revisit the issue next year to review the progress the Board of Regents has made to implement their new data driven approach to funding technical education. It was proposed that the Chair approach the LCC about referring this issue to the Legislative Education Planning Committee for interim work on language in the bill and well as follow up on the Board of Regents' progress on their new funding approach for technical education.

Chairman Huntington will visit with the Speaker as well as the sponsors of **HB 2252** and report back to the committee next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee is scheduled for March 10, 2009.

Office of Revisor of Statutes
300 S.W. 10th Avenue
Suite 010-E, Statehouse
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1592
Telephone (785) 296 -2321 FAX (785) 296-6668

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Higher Education
From: Renae Jefferies, Assistant Revisor
Date: March 5, 2009
Subject: Senate Bill No. 131

SB 131 creates a new section which would give the governing body of a technical college the power to change the name of the technical college by adoption of a resolution. If the name is changed by resolution, any designation pertaining to the technical college in any contract or other document or by statute as such statute existed prior to July 1, 2009, shall be construed to mean the name as provided in the resolution.

The bill would become effective upon publication in the statute book.

The fiscal note states there would be no fiscal effect on the State Board of Regents.

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 131

House Higher Education Committee
March 5, 2009

Duane Custer, Director
Salina Area Technical College

Chairman Huntington and Members of the Committee,

I am Duane Custer, Director at Salina Area Technical College, and I speak today on behalf of the Kansas Association of Technical Colleges. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of S.B. 131 regarding name changes for technical colleges.

When Kansas established technical schools in the mid-1960's, which were governed by local school districts, the names of the technical schools became part of the approved legislation. Many of those names were rather long and over the years legislation allowed the school districts to change those names, primarily by shortening the name of the school. This was only possible through legislative action for each name change. Over the past 15 years these institutions have either become independent technical colleges or have merged with other institutions. As the technical schools revised their names or became technical colleges, the new names had to be legislatively changed individually.

Over the past three to four years, some of the technical college governing boards have once again had discussion about the name of their institution and the desire to consider a new name. WATC, in particular, has had significant discussion locally with a variety of constituents about a possible new name that reflects a greater emphasis on their mission as a technical college.

This legislation by no means has the intent of changing our scope as technical colleges – only the ability for the local governing board to change the name of the institution and to allow the board to determine that designation without having to enter the new name into a legislative bill. By allowing all of the technical college governing boards this authority; they would have the ability to change their name without returning to the legislature each time as a word or two, or the whole name changes.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to address any questions you have.

House Higher Education Committee
March 5, 2009
Attachment 2