

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ruth Teichman at 9:30 a.m. on March 11, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Beverly Beam, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chair called the meeting to order.

Action on

SB 554 - Insurance; coverage for autism

Melissa Calderwood, Research Department, gave an overview of the bill. Ms. Calderwood stated that SB 554 would require the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP) to add coverage for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) beginning January 1, 2011. Coverage would be limited from birth to age seven to \$36,000 per member per year, and to \$27,000 per member per year for members from age seven to age nineteen. She said coverage would be subject to plan deductibles, co-pays and coinsurance, but must include any service ordered by a physician or psychologist for treatments recognized by peer reviewed literature as providing a medical benefit to someone with autism spectrum disorder. She added that the bill would require the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) to provide a report to the Legislature on or before March 1, 2012, on the impact that the mandated benefit for autism spectrum disorder has had on the SEHP. In conclusion, she stated that KHPA estimates an increase in SEHP expenditures of \$4,207,815 for fiscal year 2011, \$4,607,557 for fiscal year 2012, and \$5,045,275 for fiscal year 2013. She said actual costs could vary significantly from the estimate due to factors such as improvements in the diagnosis of ASD; evolution of accepted treatments and technology; treatment plan breadth and depth; possible provider price increases in response to coverage availability; and actual prevalence that is different from the population-based estimate.

Ken Wilke, Revisor, presented three amendments to SB 554. The first amendment was technical in nature. Senator Kelsey moved the technical amendments be approved as presented. Senator Colyer seconded. Motion carried.

The second amendment on page 2 of the amendment would strike lines 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and would insert "Reimbursement shall be allowed only for services provided by a Kansas provider licensed, trained and qualified to provide such services."

Senator Steineger suggested the word "Kansas" be stricken so that the provider does not need a state specific license.

Senator Barnett moved to strike "Kansas" from the language and leave the rest as is. Senator Steineger seconded. Motion passed.

The third amendment presented by Mr. Wilke added on line 24 of the bill following the word (or) "either a licensed specialist clinical social worker or" and on line 27 after the word (or) by adding "either a licensed specialist clinical social worker or."

Senator Barnett moved to pass the amendment as presented by Mr. Wilke. Senator Steineger seconded. Motion passed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee at 9:30 a.m. on March 11, 2010, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Melissa Calderwood, by Committee request, refreshed the Committee on the SB 554 fiscal note. Following lengthy discussion, Senator Brownlee moved to recommend to the Ways & Means Committee that a Proviso be added to the budget bill and both options be kept on the table. Senator Colyer seconded. Discussion followed.

The Chair continued the hearing on SB 554.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

