

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Stan Clark at 9:30 a.m. on February 12, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research
 Emalene Correll, Legislative Research
 Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
 Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
 Ann McMorris, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

 Senator Anthony Hensley
 Sandra Hazlett, SRS LIEAP
 Tina Labellarte, American Red Cross-Executive Director, Capitol Area Chapter
 Rebecca Simmons, Salvation Army
 Deborah Abner, Salvation Army HeatShare Coordinator
 Dave Sorrick, Southeast Kansas Independent Living

Others attending: See attached list

Chair opened hearing on:

SB 144 - KanHelp home energy assistance program and KanHelp home weatherization assistance program.

Proponents:

 Senator Anthony Hensley (Attachment 1)
 Sandra Hazlett, SRS LIEAP (Attachment 2)

Statistics provided by Sandra - 62% of denied applications were due to applicants not qualifying in the poverty level. Over 20,000 applications have been received to date. She indicated that state and federal funds could be co-mingled but this was questioned by the staff. She will research this matter and return with a response.

 Tina Labellarte, American Red Cross-Executive Director, Kansas Capitol Area Chapter (Attachment 3)
Tina explained the Gas Assistance Program (GAP) which is an add-on to the LIEAP program. She provided a copy of the GAP application form and guidelines for qualifying to receive assistance. To date 1500 applications have been approved and their deadline for receipt of applications is March 31, 2001 or receipt of 7,500 applications.

 Rebecca Simmons, Salvation Army (Attachment 4)

 Deborah Abner, Salvation Army HeatShare Coordinator (Attachment 5)

The HeatShare Program is not included in **S.B. 144**.

 Dave Sorrick, Southeast Kansas Independent Living (Attachment 6)

On questioning from the committee on what is a long-term solution, Mr. Sorrick indicated he favors some type of government control over gas costs to accomplish relief to the consumers.

Chair closed the hearing on **S.B. 144**

Chair opened hearing on:

S.R. 1607 - A concurrent resolution in support of the development of a federal energy policy.

Chair noted this resolution had been proposed by Lee Gerhard of the Kansas Geological Society. Revisor of Statutes staff indicated a technical amendment was needed on line 28 - at the end of the sentence remove the period and add a semicolon and the word "and".

Discussion on KCC oversight in regard to cold weather rule. It was noted this rule applies to electricity and natural gas and there are various statutes that list the exclusions.

Chair closed the hearing on **S.R. 1607**.

Moved by Senator Lee, seconded by Senator Emler, to amend S.R. 1607 on line 28 by deleting the period at the end of the sentence and inserting a semicolon and the word "and". Motion carried.

Moved by Senator Emler, seconded by Senator Barone, to pass S.R. 1607 as amended. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Barone, seconded by Senator Lyon, minutes of the Senate Utilities Committee for meetings held on January 31, 2001; February 1, 2001; February 5, 2001; February 6, 2001; and February 8, 2001 be approved. Motion carried.

Chair announced there would be a presentation on Tax Implications of Electric Utilities by Richard Cram of the Kansas Department of Revenue at the next meeting on Tuesday, February 13.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 6