

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 1:36 p.m. on March 2, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Christine Downey (excused)
Senator David Corbin (excused)

Committee staff present:

Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Judy Steinlicht, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research
Dr. Robert Masters, Kansas Board of Regents
Senator Barbara Allen
Mary Pruitt, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending:

See Attached List

SB293–School safety and security act; weapon, defined

Chairman Umbarger explained that he had asked for **SB293** to be blessed prior to “turn around”. Subsequently, the committee passed the bill, but the Chairman failed to let the Senate know that the bill no longer needed to be blessed. The bill was re-referred and must be worked again.

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statute’s office, briefed the committee on the amendments to the bill. Senator Emler made a motion to recommend **SB293** as amended favorably for passage. Seconded by Senator Buntin. Motion carried.

Sub HB 2493–Education; concerning private and foreign postsecondary schools

Debra Hollon, Legislative Research, gave the committee an overview of **Sub HB2493**. This bill would enact the “Kansas Private and Foreign Postsecondary Institutions Act” by consolidating existing statutory provisions governing proprietary schools and private postsecondary institutions and extending provisions that currently apply only to proprietary schools to certain private and foreign institutions. The bill would also enact new enforcement provisions as applied to foreign and private schools and create new categories of fees that would be charged for issuance of certain certificates required under the Act. Debra gave details of which entities the bill would apply to, what the bill prohibits, policy changes that would be enacted and explained new maximum fees that would be established for certification of degree granting institutions.

Dr. Robert Masters, Kansas Board of Regents testified in favor of **Sub HB2493**. Dr. Masters explained that currently Kansas has two laws governing private schools; the Proprietary School Law and the Private and Foreign Degree-Granting Law. Schools awarding degrees that are bachelors and above must adhere to the degree-granting law and schools awarding associate degrees must adhere to both degree-granting and proprietary school law. Dr. Masters explained that there are many similarities between the two laws and a few differences. It has been confusing at times to determine which law to follow and still be in compliance. Since the Kansas Board of Regents has oversight of both proprietary and degree-granting schools, it seems appropriate to make the oversight of these schools a part of one law. **HB2493** would grant the Kansas Board of Regents the authority to better monitor private postsecondary education. (Attachment 1)

SB540–Prohibiting the use of social security numbers on student and employee identification cards

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:36 p.m. on March 2, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

at postsecondary educational levels

Senator Barbara Allen testified in favor of **SB540**. Senator Allen explained that this bill would prohibit postsecondary educational institutions from printing a student or employee's social security number (SSN) on their ID card, after July 1, 2005. The SSN is the most widely used identifier of a person's identity in this country. With your SSN, a thief can obtain all kinds of information about you, steal your identity, access your financial information, and obtain a driver's licence in your name. Some schools print the SSN on the student identification card, other have it imprinted on a magnetic strip on the card and some schools are in the process of removing it from the card. This bill would require that this process be completed in 16 months. Senator Allen advised that this bill is for the safety and security of students and faculty on the campus of our postsecondary educational institutions. (Attachment 2)

Mary Pruitt, Kansas Board of Regents gave neutral testimony on **SB540**. Mary advised the committee that the Kansas Board of Regents recently surveyed the public institutions, either directly or through organizations that represent them. The responses indicated that **SB540** would have little or no impact. Some responses indicated that conversions are already underway. Mary advised the Kansas Board of Regents have concerns about two provisions of **SB540**. First, the language stating that no postsecondary educational institution shall print any part of the student's or employee's SSN on the card. The language could present an issue for randomly generated numbers. Second, the current deadline of July 1, 2005 could present a problem for some. Mary advised that Kansas' postsecondary educational institutions understand the importance of protecting the identity of students, faculty and staff. Most institutions have either already taken the necessary steps or are moving in that direction. Kansas Board of Regents would appreciate the committee addressing their two concerns. (Attachment 3)

The committee discussed the concerns of Kansas Board of Regents and offered amendments addressing these concerns.

Senator Vratil made a motion to amend **SB540**, changing the effective date from July 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried.

Senator Vratil made a motion to further amend **SB540** in Section 1, line 16, changing the word "student" to "student's" and also in Section 1, to insert wording to clarify the number of digits from the individual's social security number allowed to appear in the new identification number. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

Senator Teichman made a motion to recommend **SB540** as amended favorably for passage. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

Senator Schodorf made a motion to approve the minutes for February 18 and February 19. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled March 3, 2004.