

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on March 7, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Stephanie Sharp- excused
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor
Linda Reed, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Robert Masters - Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mary Ellen Conlee - Wichita Area Technology College
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Steve Kearney, Executive Director of the KS. Association
of Technical Schools and Colleges.
Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy for the
Kansas Assoc. Of School Boards
Kenneth A. Clouse, President of Northwest Kansas Technical College
Rob Edelston, President Manhattan Area Technical College
Ed Poley, Director of Southwest Kansas Technical School

Others attending:

See attached list.

Meeting called to order and the hearing was opened on **SB 9: Community colleges; contracts with institutions located in another state.**

Robert Masters, Vice President for Academic Affairs offered testimony on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents in support of **SB 9**. Mr. Masters stated that **SB 9** was endorsed and introduced by the Legislative Education Planning Committee, and unanimously approved by the Senate in a 40-0 vote. Mr. Masters stated repealing K.S.A. 71-202 would provide State community colleges the opportunity to enter into agreements with other institutions and organizations thereby better serving the needs of the citizens of Kansas. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Sloan asked Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor, to present an explanation of K.S.A. 71-202. Mr. Griggs stated that K.S.A. 71-202 enacted in 1972, gave community colleges authority to enter into contract agreements with community colleges or other public institutions in adjoining States. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Sloan opened the floor to questions. Questions were asked by Representatives Horst and Hill and Mary Galligan concerning the review process for new programs or degrees and the role the Board of Regents has in approving new degree programs, reciprocal agreements, student exchange agreements, certificates and academic degrees.

Representative Storm asked Mr. Masters to elaborate on specialized courses as in the example of Colby Community College working together with the Dental Hygiene Program in Wisconsin. Mr. Masters explained that what Colby is doing is teaching the general education courses. What they don't have is the specialized courses in the general hygiene area which are contracted out. Classes are primarily taught on line. Chairman Sloan added that Colby has a facility providing supervised hands-on training with a local dentist providing assistance. Mr. Masters stated that Colby does not have the resources to actually hire the types of faculty that teach those specialized courses, and that is what's being contracted out.

With no further questions, Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **SB9**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 7, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearing on **HB 2489: Tax levy authority for governing bodies of technical colleges and school districts.**

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor gave a brief explanation of **HB 2489**, citing that the general subject matter of the bill would provide for a mill levy to fund adult basis education at certain technical colleges. Mr. Griggs stated that Section 2 of the bill gives the authority to levy a half mill on personal property in the technical college's service territory, for adult education. Mr. Griggs stated that what the bill does, is allow technical colleges to make that adult education levy currently made by local school districts. (Attachment 3)

The Chairman opened the floor for questions.

Chairman Sloan asked Mr. Griggs to comment on the issues of principle and interest payments on bonds issued by cities for the financing of redevelopment projects upon property located with the territory. Mr. Griggs indicated that when they are redeveloping a district they look at what the mill levy was before the improvement, and look at the value the improvement, the difference in the value is still taxed but the tax revenues attributable to the improvement are used to pay the debt.

Mr. Griggs responded to Representative Carlin as to whether a program is already in place regarding mill levy's for adult education. Mr. Griggs stated that some school districts have the program in place and some do not.

Chairman Sloan indicated to the Committee that **HB 2489** is dually referred to us and the tax committee. If we pass out our version of this bill it will then go to tax committee where they will work the bill before it goes to the House floor.

Written testimony was presented by Kenneth A. Clouse, President of Northwest Kansas Technical College on **HB 2489**. (Attachment 4)

Written testimony from Rob Edeleston from Manhattan, President Manhattan Area Technical College. (Attachment 5)

Mary Ellen Conlee, provided testimony as a proponent for the Wichita Area Technological College explaining why they need **HB 2489**. Ms. Conlee stated **HB 2489** amends 2003 legislation referred to as **SB 7** which established a procedure for the transition of technical colleges from K-12 school board governance to independent governance. In reviewing **SB 7**, it became clear that in some jurisdictions, the new boards would need additional statutory authority to levy a tax for the purpose of continuing to carry out Adult Basic Education programming (ABE). Ms. Conlee asked that we support the original **HB 2489** which allows the transfer of the ABE tax levy authority from a unified school district to the new technical college board of directors, if the technical college is responsible for the ABE programming. (Attachment 6)

Ms. Conlee provided a balloon on **HB 2489** to the Committee. (Attachment 7)

Ed Poley, Director of Southwest Kansas Technical School, Liberal Kansas provided written testimony as an opponent for the bill. (Attachment 8)

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy for the Kansas Association of School Boards, provided testimony as a neutral party. (Attachment 9)

Steve Kearney appeared in his capacity as Executive Director with the Kansas Association of Technical Schools and Colleges as a neutral party. (Attachment 10)

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department presented and walked through proposed balloon language on **HB 2489**. (Attachment 11)

Chairman Sloan opened the floor to questions.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Representative Kreibel and Hill questioned Mary Galligan about issues of valuation in redevelopment districts.

Representative Storm questioned Mr. Kearney about issues associated with cuts in state aid funds.

There being no further questions Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HB 2489**.

Chairman Sloan brought **SB 9** back for committee discussion and motions.

Representative Kelsey moved to pass SB 9. The motion was seconded by Representative Huff.

The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan asked Representative Kelsey to carry the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. in RM. 231-N.