

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:35 p.m. on March 25, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Carol Toland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents

**Action on bills previously heard:****SB 620 – School districts; special education; medicaid replacement state aid****SB 646 – School districts; special education state aid, distribution of**

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor Statutes Office, distributed copies of balloon amendments to **SB 620**. She explained that the amended language conforms to the original intent of the bill. (Attachment 1)

Senator Lee moved to adopt the proposed amendments to SB 620, seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion carried.

Senator Steineger distributed copies of a proposed amendment which would give directions to the State Board of Education on how to distribute money for the payment of medicaid replacement state aid to each school district. (Attachment 2)

Senator Steineger moved to amend SB 620 as proposed, seconded by Senator Lee.

Committee discussion followed during which it was determined that Senator Steineger's proposed amendment was included in the balloon prepared by Ms. Kiernan. Senator Steineger withdrew his motion.

Senator Vratil moved to add the contents of SB 646 to SB 620, seconded by Senator Allen.

Senator Lee distributed copies of a memorandum regarding the effects of **SB 646**, which was prepared by Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education. A computer printout attached to the memorandum provided a list of the school districts/interlocals/cooperatives and the excess cost percentages computed by the Legislative Division of Post Audit for the 2005-06 school year. Mr. Dennis applied the percentages to 2007-08 state aid payments to compute an estimated potential increase in state aid as a result of **SB 646**. (Attachment 3) In her opinion, the information showed that an interim study was needed before passing the bill. She then discussed a memorandum from the Legislative Division of Post Audit which included a table that showed a comparison of the special education excess costs and categorical aid received by school districts and cooperatives on a per student basis, using excess cost and categorical aid data from the 2005-06 school year. (Attachment 4) Using the information shown in the table, she concluded once again that the issue of the special education formula was in need of further study. Committee discussion followed, and Senator Vratil stated that he did not believe that passage of the bill would have the effects described by Senator Lee.

Senator Teichman made a substitute motion to assign SB 646 to a task force for further study, seconded by Senator Lee. The substitute motion failed on a show of hands.

On a call for a vote on Senator Vratil's motion, the motion carried on a show of hands.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:35 p.m. on March 25, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Senator Hensley moved to recommend **SB 620** favorably for passage as amended, seconded by Senator Vratil. The motion carried on a show of hands.

**Discussion and action on higher education bills not assigned to the Senate Education Committee:**

Reginald Robinson, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, requested that the Committee consider action relating to the following bills which remained in a House committee:

**SB 403 – Partnership for faculty of distinction program; state income earnings equivalent cap removed**

**SB 415 – Post secondary educational insstitutions; deferred maintenance**

**HB 2611 – Conversion of certain employees to unclassified service; leave time for classified employees of state educational institutions.**

Mr. Robinson summarized information on the bills included in a memorandum prepared by Kip Peterson, Director of Government Relations and Communications for the Board of Regents. (Attachment 5)

Senator Schodorf moved to amend **SB 403**, **SB 415**, and **HB 2611** into **HB 2343** which was referred to the Senate Education Committee during the 2007 legislative session, seconded by Senator Steineger. The motion carried.

Senator Schodorf called the Committee's attention to the minutes of the March 24 meeting.

Senator Vratil moved to approve the minutes of the March 24 meeting, seconded by Senator McGinn. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

There are no further meetings scheduled