

Approved: February 10, 2012

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Marc Rhoades at 9:09 AM on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Director, Legislative Research Department
J.G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department
Dylan Dear, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department
Michael Wales, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, First Assistant, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Nobuko Folmsbee, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Cindy O'Neal, Administrative Assistant
Kathy Holscher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Colloton
Dr. George Griffith, Wakeeney School District
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards
David Smith, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Chairman Rhoades reviewed the committee agenda and opened hearings on **HB 2400**.

HB 2400 - School districts; amendment to definition of at-risk pupil.

Eunice Peters, Assistant Revisor, Office of the Revisor, provided an overview of the technical amendment to the bill. If worked in committee this supplemental bill would require a technical amendment changing the date from FY 2010 to FY 2011. The definition of at risk children would apply to those below 4th grade and scores that are less than proficient in math or reading state assessment, and redefines at risk children from 4th through 12th grade as non-proficient.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS Committee at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, January 31, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

Representative Colloton, provided testimony as a proponent of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). She suggested an amendment to the bill reallocating \$100 million to the base state aid for every public school district.

Representative Colloton responded to questions from committee members. A review of funding formulas, assessments and proficiencies for at risk children followed. This bill would provide a savings of \$100 million. Indicators show that the more money spent to fund early education programs better academic results will be realized, she noted.

Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent, Trego County, USD #208, provided testimony as an opponent of the bill ([Attachment 2](#)).

Dr. Griffith responded to questions from committee members. He stated that state assessments are based on what has been learned not on what student's know. He expressed concern for the change in the definition of at risk student from those on free lunches to reflect only students that are non-proficient on state assessments for 4 through 12 grades.

Mark Tallman, Associate Executive Director for Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards, provided testimony as an opponent of the bill ([Attachment 3](#)). This bill would reduce funding for at risk students and further funding for districts that succeed in raising achievement on state assessment.

Mark Tallman responded to questions from committee members. He stressed the need to get students to an established standard and improve remediation levels. A review of Kansas rankings for low income students and the National Assessment of Education Progress followed.

David Smith, Chief of Staff, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, testified as an opponent of the bill ([Attachment 4](#)).

David Smith responded to questions from committee members. He discussed the student mobility issues resulting in the districts' need to shift teachers. Testing students on their knowledge and then teaching students what they need providing individualized instruction.

Diane Gjerstad, representing the Wichita Public Schools testified as an opponent of the bill ([Attachment 5](#)).

Chairman Rhoades closed the hearing on **HB 2400**. A review of the agenda for the next committee meeting followed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.