

Approved: 03/30/2012

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2012 in 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Brenda Landwehr

Committee staff present:

Audrey Dunkel-KLRD
Reagan Cussimano-KLRD
Jason Long-KLRD
Eunice Peters-Revisor
Edw. Balda-Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Paul Davis
Chuck Yunker-Adjutant, Dept. of Kansas American Legion
Sara Sneath-Armed Service Veteran
Bradley Boomsma-Armed Service Veteran
Representative Arlan Siegfried
Madeline Burkindine-Kansas School of the Deaf
Barton Goering, Ph.D-Superintendent, USD 230, Spring Hills Schools
Chitiquita Coggs- Founder, Maurice R. Holman Academy of Excellence
Representative Connie O'Brien
Mark Desetti- KNEA
Mark Tallman-Kansas Assn. of School Boards
Cheryl Semmel- United School Administrators of Kansas
Dr. Julie Ford-Superintendent, Topeka Public Schools, USD 501

Others in attendance: see attached list

HB 2652. Granting in state tuition to military veterans.

HB 2693 Agreements with school districts for service provided to students attending the school for the blind and the school for the deaf

HB 2566 Capital improvements state aid; limitation on the calculation thereof

HB 2580 Creating the Kansas public charter schools act

Chairman Lana Gordon greeted the members and opened the meeting.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET Committee at 3:30 PM on Monday, February 20, 2012, in 159-S of the Capitol.

The Chairman announced that she was changing the order of the bills addressed to accommodate the busy schedule of various conferees. Representative Davis spoke first on behalf of **HB 2652** Sara Sneath a proponent read her testimony (Attachment 1). There were no questions. Brad Boomsma, a proponent, read his testimony (Attachment 2). There were no questions.

Chuck Yunker addressed the committee as a proponent and read his testimony (Attachment 3). There were no questions.

There were no opponents to this bill. However, Eunice Peters was called upon to clarify bill **HB 2652**. This bill amends current law relating to fees charged to persons enrolled in state educational institutions under control of the board of regents. Mary Jane Stankiewicz, from the Board of Regents also gave explanation. Questions were asked by Representatives Cassidy and Spalding. The hearing was then closed.

The Chairman opened **HB 2693** for hearing. Eunice Peters gave a briefing (Attachment 4) on the bill which amends current law relating to the state schools for the blind and deaf. Representative Siegfried then addressed the member with his testimony (Attachment 5) as a proponent for **HB 2693**, which he wrote. Questions from Representatives Spalding and Cassidy were made. Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education also participated. Discussion regarding the funding for para-educators was made. Representatives Aurand and Feuerborn gave questions and comments.

Madeline Burkindine, Superintendent of the Kansas School for the Deaf, represented herself as a neutral and gave testimony without written handouts. She reviewed the similarities of students with autism to those with hearing difficulties. They are appealing for a short term budget. Their financial situation is an ongoing crisis. Without additional help, they will have no choice other than to send home those students with multiple and severe disorders. Questions were submitted by Representatives Feuerborn, and Spalding. Representative Feuerborn inquired to the various needs of special education students and funding Representative Spalding gave comment on the situation and asked how paras were funded. Representative Feuerborn asked for advice on what was the best way to fund the school. The superintendent had no answer other than to say that it was a troubling situation. Representative Siegfried expressed his opinion that this was a difficult situation, hoping that perhaps someone can come up with a bill that might solve the problem. There were no further questions or discussion. The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2693**.

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The Chairman then opened the hearing on **HB 2566** and asked Eunice Peters to review the bill for the members. This bill excludes the calculation of capital improvements for a district the number of full time virtual students who do not reside in that school district. There were no proponents. Superintendent Bart Goering addressed the members as an opponent to this bill. He presented testimony (Attachment 6). Questions and discussion followed. Jason Long gave information regarding a possible amendment. There were no more questions and the hearing on **HB 2566** was closed.

The Chairman opened the hearing for **HB 2580** and asked revisor Jason Long to give a review (Attachment 7). This bill creates the Kansas Public Charter School Act and is a complete revision of public charter schools in Kansas. Questions were asked by Representative Aurand regarding the constitutionality of asking a revisor for his opinion on the constitutionality of a bill. Chairman Gordon advised that the members address the question at a later time since the conferee's list was so long.

Chiquita Coggs addressed the committee as a proponent to the bill. She presented her testimony (Attachment 8). Representative Feuerborn asked questions. Representative O'Brien, author of the bill, gave testimony (Attachment 9). Representative Feuerborn asked questions regarding testing of students in charter schools. There were more proponents.

The Chairman asked for testimony from opponents to the bill. Mark Desetti, of KNEA addressed the members and presented his information (Attachment 10). He also mentioned that this bill, if approved, would be costly to the state and would be difficult to regulate. The next opponent, Mark Tallman, gave testimony (Attachment 11). He suggests that this bill be made as an amendment, not a bill. There were no questions or discussion.

Cheryl Semmel of USA/KANSAS presented her testimony (Attachment 12) and suggested this not be a bill but rather an amendment. There were no questions.

Dr. Julie Ford, Superintendent USD 501, made presentation with her testimony (Attachment 13). She pointed out that the Topeka school district has a charter school, at Hope St. Academy. She

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stated that a benefit of their charter's success is that it is managed locally. There were no questions or further discussion. The hearing was closed on **HB 2580**.

The Chairman now directed the members to review any past bills for recommendation. Representative Spalding asked for discussion on **HB 2652**. The revisor, Jason Long suggested that the bill be technically amended to change the title. *Representative Spalding made motion to accept the bill. This was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Representative Spalding made motion to amend the original bill which was seconded by Representative Winn.* The issue was in regards to students residing in the state for two years after graduation. Representative Aurand asked the fiscal effect of both the motion and the amended motion. Representative Feuerborn asked "what would happen to the money if the student was to leave Kansas. Where would it go?" There was more discussion between Representative Feuerborn and Representative Spalding. A question about residency was asked by Representative Winn. After this discussion a vote was taken and *the motion failed.* There was no further discussion on the original bill. Representative Aurand spoke against it, stressing that he felt the committee needed more time to fully investigate the details and funding. Representative Arpke spoke in strong support of the bill to help the active military. *Representative Feuerborn moves in favor of the title change, this was seconded by Representative Cassidy.* A vote was taken and all were in favor; *the motion carried.* *Representative Feuerborn moves that the original **HB 2652** be passed; this was seconded by Representative Winn.* A vote was taken; all were in favor, *the bill carried.*

Representative Winn then suggested to the committee that **HB 2693** be looked at. Representative Feuerborn asked if perhaps it could be addressed first in Appropriations. Representative Aurand spoke to support **HB 2566** but that he would not vote on it. Representative Arpke *made a motion to pass **HB 2566** but no one seconded it.*

There were no further questions and the meeting was adjourned at 5:40.