

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Lane at 9:10 a.m. on January 11, 2001 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. John Ballou - excused
 Rep. Melany Barnes - excused
 Rep. Frank Miller - excused
 Rep. Rick Rehorn - excused

Committee staff present: Jerry Donaldson, Legislative Research Department
 Bev Adams, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Roger Aeschliman, KDHR
 Phil Harness, KDHR
 Bill Layes, KDHR

Others attending: See attached list

Presentation by Department of Human Resources - continued

Chairman Lane opened the meeting by introducing Roger Aeschliman, Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department of Human Resources (KDHR). Several people from the department returned to finish the presentation that was started yesterday. Mr. Aeschliman introduced Phil Harness, Director of the Division of Workers Compensation, KDHR.

Mr. Harness gave a brief overview of the Division of Workers Compensation. He explained the organizational chart of the division that he furnished to the members and gave a short explanation of the jobs that each section performs. He answered questions of the committee as they came up throughout his presentation. (See Attachment 1)

One subject that came up was the new Federal Ergonomics Regulations which takes effect on January 15, 2001. It would involve paying a higher percentage rate for claims. They are taking a wait and see approach to this and other new federal regulations that are taking effect.

Mr. Harness also updated the committee on what they have done to come into compliance with the deficiencies that were found in the division and published in the February 1999 Post Audit Report.

Bill Layes, Chief of Labor Market Information Services, KDHR, explained the function of his division. They administer five programs in a cooperative agreement with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics with regional offices located in Dallas and Kansas City. Their division is responsible for collecting, analyzing and publishing data that relate to all facets of the labor market. Most of the information can be found on their website at: <http://laborstats.hr.state.ks.us> Mr. Layes answered several questions about unemployment rates and the Trust Fund. (See Attachment 2)

Chairman Lane adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, 2001.