

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Morris at 10:40 a.m. on March 5, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: All present

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Major General Gregory Gardner, Kansas Adjutant General

Others attending: See attached list

Bill Introduction

Senator Adkins moved, with a second by Senator Jordan, to introduce a bill concerning the University of Kansas Hospital Authority (1rs2287). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris referred the following bill to the KPERS Issues Subcommittee:

SB 638--Employment after retirement for certain school retirants

Subcommittee reports on:

Adjutant General (Attachment 1)

Subcommittee Chairman Morris reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendations for FY 2002.

Subcommittee Chairman Morris reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendations for FY 2003 with adjustments as listed in the subcommittee budget report.

Chairman Morris and Senator Feleciano commended the Adjutant General for the fantastic job in response to the recent ice storm in Kansas and thanked those men and women who participated in the response effort.

Senator Schodorf moved, with a second by Senator Downey, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the Adjutant General for the FY 2002 and FY 2003 budget. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Kansas Highway Patrol (Attachment 2)

Subcommittee Chairman Morris reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendations for FY 2002.

Subcommittee Chairman Morris reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendations for FY 2003 with adjustments as listed in the subcommittee budget report.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Senator Downey moved, with a second by Senator Feleciano, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the Kansas Highway Patrol for the FY 2002 and FY 2003 budget. Motion carried on a voice vote.

State Fire Marshal (Attachment 3)

Subcommittee Chairman Morris reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendations for FY 2002.

Subcommittee Chairman Morris reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendations for FY 2003 with adjustments as listed in the subcommittee budget report.

Senator Schodorf moved, with a second by Senator Jackson, to amend the subcommittee report to delete the transfer of \$750,000.00 from the Fire Marshal Fee Fund to the Hazardous Materials Emergency Fund for FY 2003 and direct Staff to create a flow chart relating to receipts, expenditures, the remaining balance and effect the passage of **SB 508** would have on the Fire Marshal Fee Fund. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Senator Jackson moved, with a second by Senator Downey, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the State Fire Marshal for the FY 2002 and FY 2003 budget as amended. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 627--Kansas national guard; reimbursement for costs of health insurance

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

Major General Greg Gardner, Kansas Adjutant General, testified in support of **SB 627** (Attachment 4). General Gardner explained that the bill amends KSA 48-225, the statute concerning pay and benefits for Kansas National Guard personnel called to active duty in times of need. He described a serious gap discovered in their State active duty statute in that state active duty tours over 30 days make Kansas Guard men and women vulnerable to losing medical coverage for themselves and their families (purchased through their civilian employment). General Gardner mentioned that conversely, if a guardsman serves on federal active duty, both the member and their family receive medical coverage, both during and after their tour and medical insurance coverage through their civilian employer is automatically restored. In his testimony, General Gardner recommended a state tax credit for employers for their portion of civilian family health care premiums for guardsmen on state active duty in excess of 30 days. General Gardner submitted a proposed balloon for these changes (Attachment 5). Committee questions and discussion followed.

Senator Barone moved, with a second by Senator Downey, a conceptual amendment to **SB 627** to put in a tax credit or if it is a non-taxpaying entity then direct reimbursement would be possible. Motion carried by a voice vote.

Senator Adkins expressed concern regarding covering insurance in effect at the time Guard personnel are called to state active duty. He mentioned that the bill, as written, now would allow someone to acquire insurance subsequent to being called for state active duty that would have to be paid for with pre-existing conditions or other factors that might not qualify for insurance coverage prior to state active service. Senator Adkins mentioned considering the possibility of limiting the state exposure to the equivalent of the state health insurance plan.

Senator Feleciano moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to amend **SB 627** to publish effective with the Kansas Register. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris suggested that when the Revisor completes work on the amendments to bring a balloon back for Committee consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2002.