

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:05 A.M. on March 7, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative Marti Crow, excused
- Representative Ted Powers, excused
- Representative Steve Huebert, excused
- Representative Ben Hodge, absent

Committee staff present:

- Theresa Kiernan, Office of Revisor of Statutes
- Dianne Rosell, Office of Revisor of Statutes
- Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education
- Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- Representative Sydney Carlin
- Martin Dempsey, Department of Defense, Regional Quality of Life Liaison for Kansas
- Ron Walker, Superintendent, Geary County, USD 475
- Captain Adam Johnson, National Guard Education Services Office
- Major Jason Nelson, Executive Officer, Pittsburg State University, ROTC program
- Dr. Clayton Tatro, President, Fort Scott Community College
- Written testimony - Diane Lindeman, Director of Student Financial Aid, Kansas Board of Regents

### **SB 421: School districts; concurrent enrollment; pupils in grade 10**

Dr. Gary George, Olathe School District, furnished written testimony on **SB 421** in response to questions from Committee members during the meeting of March 6, 2008. ([Attachment #1](#))

### **HB 2714: Interstate compact on education opportunity for military children**

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor, Office of the Revisor's Office, gave an overview of **HB 2714**.

Representative Sydney Carlin spoke to Committee members in support of HB 2714 and gave an overview of the Interstate Compact information and how it works. Representative Carlin stated the compact seeks to facilitate equal educational opportunity for the children of military members in four major areas:

- Enrollment
- Eligibility
- Placement
- Graduation

Representative Carlin further stated the compact attempts to establish a 'common denominator' among the member states which will remove existing barriers to timely completion of the public education process for these students who by virtue of the decision and commitment of their parent to serve our country are, in many cases, being unfairly penalized. ([Attachment #2](#))

Martin Dempsey, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Army Quality of Life Regional Liaison, Military Community and Family Policy, spoke to Committee members in support of **HB 2714**. Mr. Dempsey told Committee members the *Compact* is an agreement among member states to a set of practices that will allow for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and between states. The Interstate Compact does not ask for special privileges for military children; only that states create a level playing field, and work cooperatively to make it happen. ([Attachment #3](#))

Ronald Walker, Superintendent, Geary County USD 475, spoke to Committee members in support of **HB 2714**. Superintendent Walker told Committee members the Compact seeks to provide consistency for dependents of

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:05 A.M. on March 7, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

military families as they serve our country. (Attachment #4)

John Deegan, Executive Director, Military Impacted Schools Association, provided written testimony in support of **HB 2714**. (Attachment #5)

Keith Scott, Director, National Center for Interstate Compacts, provided written testimony in support of **HB 2714**. (Attachment #6)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2714**.

### **SB 437: ROTC service scholarships; community colleges**

Theresa Kiernan, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, gave an overview of **SB 437** to Committee members.

Captain Adam Johnson, Education Services Officer, Kansas Army National Guard, and Major Jason Nelson, Assistant Professor of Military Science, Pittsburg State University, Army ROTC, spoke to Committee members in support of **SB 437**. (Attachment #7)

Captain Johnson told Committee members they were seeking to amend verbiage to **Statute 74-3255** to enhance the Kansas Army National Guard (KASNG) Officer recruiting base and improve upon our number of officers for future needs. This would further enable the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Departments within Kansas to use more, or all, of their available funding.

Major Nelson spoke to Committee members of the process of Pittsburg State University Army ROTC Department teaching Military Science courses to those students at Fort Scott Community College with the intent that they would matriculate to a Regents University upon completion of their two years at a community college. He further stated the intent of the bill is to simply change the wording of the statute to allow all three Army ROTC schools, University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Pittsburg State University to utilize this scholarship opportunity for those students who initially attend a community college.

Dr. Clayton Tatro, President, Fort Scott Community College, spoke to Committee member in support of **SB 437**. President Tatro stated that with the option provided in **SB 437**, as amended, these community college students will now be eligible to participate in the KBOR ROTC Scholarship program. (Attachment #8)

Diane Lindeman, Director of Student Financial Assistance, Kansas Board of Regents, spoke to Committee members in a neutral position regarding **SB 437**. (Attachment #9)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

Chairman Aurand closed the hearing on **SB 437**.

### **SB 421: School districts; concurrent enrollment; pupils in grade 10.**

**Representative Colloton made the motion for SB 421 to be reported favorably for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Spalding.** After a brief discussion, **the motion carried.**

### **SB 507: METS education innovation council; members; duties.**

It was the concensus of the Committee to postpone working the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2008.