

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:20 A.M. on March 19, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the 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:

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Audit
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association

HB 2969: Virtual school act.

SB 669: Virtual schools; funding; enrollment; administration

Scott Frank, Kansas Legislative Post Audit, gave an overview of **HB 2969** and **SB 669** to Committee members. School District Performance Audit Reports entitled "*K-12 Education: Reviewing Issues Related to Virtual Schools*" and "*K-12 Education: Determining the Reasons for Variations in Virtual School Costs*" were furnished to Committee members. (Reports On file - Legislative Post Audit)

Mr. Frank reviewed the *Summary of Findings* with Committee members and stated Kansas currently has 28 virtual schools providing a variety of services. He also stated virtual schools are funded in much the same way as traditional schools, but cost less to operate. Mr. Frank also requested an interim study be conducted for this topic. (Attachment #1)

Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association, told Committee members that growth of virtual schools in Kansas has been rapid and strong yet there appears to be a number of unanswered questions. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Desetti also distributed a booklet entitled "Guide to Online High School Courses" published by the National Education Association. (On file - Kansas National Education Association)

Chairman Aurand told Committee members that a sub-committee would be formed for this issue;

Chairman Aurand then closed the hearing for **SB 2969** and **SB 669**.

SB 426: School districts; enrollment and general fund budget in certain districts affected by disasters.

Representative Hill reported to Committee members the results of the Sub-Committee on **SB 426**.

Representative Hill moved to adopt the Sub-Committee Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Representative Otto. The motion carried.

Representative Otto moved to pass **SB 426** as recommended favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Hill. The motion carried.

SB 470: School safety violations.

Representative Aurand moved to adopt the House position (**HB 2816**) on **SB 470**. The motion was seconded by Representative Horst. The motion carried.

SB 492: Teachers; licensure; disqualification for issuance or non-renewal DUI offenses; conspiracy; out of state and federal offenses.

It was the consensus of the Committee to not work this bill. Representative Donohoe requested his "yes" vote to work the bill be recorded for the record.

SB 399: Mandatory attendance of kindergarten; age of eligibility.

It was the decision of the Chairman to not work this bill at this time, however, he wanted to make it clear that those children ages 5 and 6 who are enrolled in school are currently subject to truancy laws.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:02 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2008.