

Approved: April 19, 2007  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:35 A.M. on March 15, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Jim Barone- excused

Committee staff present:  
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes  
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Senator Derek Schmidt  
Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority  
Jerry Slaughter, Executive Director, Kansas Medical Society  
Chad Austin, Kansas Hospital Association (written)  
Tiara Green, Children's Mercy Family Health Partners (written)  
Major General Tod Bunting, Adjutant General  
Don Button, Emergency Management Coordinator, Grant County

Others attending:  
See attached list.

### **Bill Introductions**

Senator Emler moved, with a second by Senator Kelly, to introduce the Governor's Pay Plan state officers and employees, salaries and compensation, increases for FY 2008, certain expense allowances. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Umbarger opened the confirmation hearing for:

### **Sally O'Grady, Re-Appointment as Member, Public Employee Relations Board (Attachment 1)**

Ms. O'Grady visited with the Committee regarding her work and experience serving on the Public Employee Relations Board.

Following committee questions and discussion, the Chairman closed the confirmation hearing.

Senator V. Schmidt moved, with a second by Senator Kelly, to recommend the confirmation of the re-appointment of Sally O'Grady as Member, Public Employee Relations Board. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

### **SB 373--Medicaid inspector general**

Staff briefed the committee on the bill.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed the following conferees:

Senator Derek Schmidt presented testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 2). Senator D. Schmidt explained that originally, the proposal to establish a Medicaid Inspector General arose from the 2005 Special Committee on Medicaid Reform, which he chaired. Legislation was introduced in the 2005 Session and he

CONTINUATION SHEET

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provided a history of that bill and what has led to introduction of **SB 373**.

Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority, spoke in support of **SB 373** (Attachment 3). Dr. Nielsen presented information on the history of SB 373, the bill itself, and estimated cost. She noted that the legislation is based on model statutes of the Inspector General at the federal level, as well as in other states.

Jerry Slaughter, Executive Director, Kansas Medical Society, testified in favor of **SB 373** (Attachment 4). Mr. Slaughter explained that the bill represents the work product of numerous meetings over the past several months. He noted that many of the concerns with the legislation from last year have been addressed in **SB 373**.

Written testimony was submitted by:

Chad Austin, Vice President of Governmental Relations, Kansas Hospital Association (Attachment 5)

Taira Green, Director of Government Relations and Public Affairs, Children's Mercy Family Health Partners (Attachment 6)

There being no further conferees to come before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 373**.

Senator Steineger moved, with a second by Senator Emler, to recommend **SB 373** favorable for passage. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Major General Tod Bunting who presented a briefing on Kansas Emergency Management and Federal Disaster Relief (Attachment 7). Major General Bunting provided details at this point about the Winter Storm 2006 - Incident Date was December 28-31, 2006. He detailed the following information:

- Incident Overview
- Emergency Support Functions
  - Transportation
  - Communications
  - Public Works & Engineering
  - Emergency Management
  - Mass Care
  - Resource Management
  - Health and Medical
  - Search and Rescue
  - Natural Resources and Agriculture
  - Energy
  - Public Safety
  - Long-Term Recovery
  - External Communications

Information was provided on the Estimated State Matching Funds Needed for Disasters in Kansas (Attachment 8). Committee questions and discussion followed. Mike Beam, present, Kansas Livestock Association, responded to questions regarding cattle lost during the storm and he noted that there was no count yet on the loss. Mr. Beam did mention that the weight loss of the surviving cattle is on-going at this point.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2007, at 12:15 p.m., a Joint Meeting with the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.