

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe McLeland at 3:30 p.m. on March 9, 2009, in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jonathan Tang, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dee Heideman, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Cheryl Semmel, Director, United School Administrators of Kansas
Bob Vancrum, Blue Valley School District #229
Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards
Mark Desetti, Director of Legislative Advocacy, Kansas National Education Association
Dennis McKinney, State Treasurer of Kansas
April Holman, Director Economic Policy, Kansas Action for Children
Jackie Free, Kansas Partners for Asset Development

Others attending:

See attached list.

HB 2105 - Teacher and administrator contracts; notice of non-renewal.

Theresa Kiernan of the Revisor's provided an overview of **HB 2105**. (Attachment 1)

Cheryl Semmel, Director, United School Administrators of Kansas, spoke in favor of **HB 2105** which would allow school districts for a limited period of time, to notify teachers of non-renewal to a reasonable number of days following the adoption of the state budget. (Attachment 2)

Bob Vancrum, Blue Valley School District #229, was a proponent on the bill, and stated it overrides the usual May 1 date in any case where the Governor has not signed a budget for the ensuing year before April 16. In such a case, non-renewal must take place 15 days after the appropriations bill is signed. (Attachment 3)

Speaking in opposition of **HB 2105**, Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards stated that although boards may appreciate more time to make decisions about non-renewing teachers' contracts, the delay also gives teachers more time to indicate whether they wish to accept the contract, which will further delay district staffing decisions. In addition, many district negotiated agreements also contain notice dates and reduction in force procedures that would either not be changed by this bill, or would be in conflict with this bill. (Attachment 4)

Another opponent of **HB 2105** was Mark Desetti, Director of Legislative Advocacy, Kansas National Education Association. He stated that this bill essentially strings teachers along. Also, he felt the system we now have works and there is no reason to change it. (Attachment 5)

After a session of questions and answers, Chairman McLeland closed the hearing on **HB 2105**.

SB 225 - Low-income family postsecondary savings accounts incentive program.

SB 225 was explained by Theresa Kiernan of the Revisor's office. (Attachment 6)

Dennis McKinney, State Treasurer, provided testimony as a proponent of the bill, and indicated in these difficult times, this is not the time to give up on the idea that the state's taxpayers benefit when we enhance workforce development. (Attachment 7)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Education Budget Committee at 3:30 p.m. on March 9, 2009, in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

The next proponent of this bill to speak was April Holman, Director of Economic Policy, Kansas Action for Children. Her reasons for supporting **SB 225** were; 1) strengthens our workforce, 2) helps Kansas compete with overseas workforce, 3) attracts new jobs to Kansas, 4) bolsters rural and smaller communities, and 5) fosters financial responsibility. (Attachment 8)

Jackie Freed from Kansas Partners in Asset Development, stated that now more than ever, we should encourage families to save for technical and higher education and by offering incentives, Kansas will reap the rewards of this investment in the future of employees of this state. (Attachment 9)

Written testimony Supporting **HB 225** was submitted by Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents. (Attachment 10)

Don Jordan, Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services also provided written testimony in favor of this bill. (Attachment 11)

There were no opponents testifying on **SB 225**.

After all questions were answered, the hearing on **SB 225** was closed by Chairman McLeland.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.