

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steven Brunk at 9:00 a.m. on January 15, 2009 in Room 784 DOB.

All members were present except:

Representative Bob Bethell- absent
Representative Broderick Henderson- absent
Representative Ron Worley- absent

Committee staff present:

Stephen Bainum, Administrative Assistant
Jerry Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Renaë Jefferies, Kansas Legislative Revisor
Daniel Yoza, Kansas Legislative Revisor

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Steven Brunk welcomed all the Committee members to the Committee and said that he had tried to arrange the seating so that new members could be seated by an experienced member. If there was any difficulty or problem with the seating to let him know. He then called for introductions from each Representative and staff member. The Chairman advised that the Department of Labor was scheduled to be here today but that it was too short notice for them to prepare all the information they wanted to share. Instead they will be here at the next meeting on Wednesday, January 21st. Everyone was advised that a copy of the Commerce & Labor Committee Rules for 2009 were in their packet and called everyone's attention to Rule 16 which states that "For any dispute or uncertainty, the Chairman's ruling will be final." The Assistant reminded the Chairman that he wanted to strike rule H which stated that no food or drink was allowed in the committee room. The Chairman affirmed that it was stricken.

The Chairman advised that we will be hearing from the Departments of Commerce and Labor, KTEC and the Bioscience Authority. We want to hear from the agencies that are doing things that promote economic development. He requested that anyone who had ideas about a bill to bring it to Renaë Jefferies and she will be able to put it in the right kind of order. He advised that we would be accepting all bill introductions and asked if anyone had any questions.

Representative Hermanson said that being new to this committee he wanted to know what the Committee does. The Chairman said that the Committee would take bill introductions from anyone who thinks that a particular law needs to be added to or subtracted from or changed in some fashion. The Revisors will give us an explanation of what the bill does. If we choose to hear the bill we will open it up for a public hearing. Then anyone in the public can come in and tell us how the changes will affect their industry. Then if we choose after that to work that bill then just the Committee will have an opportunity to discuss the bill. If it is passed out of the Committee then we have a full House bill. Then the same process is repeated in the House.

Renaë Jefferies said that she would make a balloon of the changes requested to the bill so that everyone could see what the changes were.

Representative Bowers asked the Chairman if he could determine how fast the unemployment fund is being depleted. The Chairman said that he hoped to have that information this coming Wednesday when we hear from the Department of Labor. He spoke of the trigger mechanism that had been placed on the fund and that it is under review every year.

Representative Schwab asked the Chairman if he allowed conceptual amendments. The Chairman said that he did if it is in order and if it is relevant. It needs to be as concise as possible.

The Chairman asked if there were any bill introductions at this time. Representative Ruiz introduced a elevator safety bill. He said that the state of Kansas had no specific guidelines or standards for inspection processes on commercial elevators. Representative Grange introduced a bill about continuing education for

CONTINUATION SHEET

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mechanical contractors. Both bills were accepted without objection.

The Chairman asked if any conferees in the audience had a bill to introduce. Steve Kearney representing a group of Realtors from the Wichita, Sedgwick County area introduced a bill to amend KSA 40-2404, striking Sub Section G from the statute. The issue is about real estate companies owning title companies. In 2004 the threshold was raised from 25 to 70 % and real estate companies have found it unworkable. The bill introduction was accepted without objection.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:30 a.m.