

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Holmes at 9:00 A.M. on February 2, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Oletha Faust-Goudeau- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor's Office
Rena Hansen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Tom Sloan
Charles Benjamin, Sierra Club
Bruce Sneed, Kansas Energy Council
Larry Holloway, KCC
David Springe, CURB
Michael Klein, Salvation Army
Bobbi Mariani, SRS
Joe Harkins, Governors Staff

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on:

HB 2657 **Recovery of certain amounts spent by electric or natural gas public utility for customer energy efficiency and conservation programs.**

Proponents:

Representative Tom Sloan presented testimony (Attachment 1), in support of **HB 2657** noting that the bill provides for energy efficiency and conservation programs receiving prior approval of the Commission.

Charles Benjamin, Sierra Club, (Attachment 2), presented testimony in favor of **HB 2657** stating that the bill allows utility companies to receive their authorized rate of return on the monies spent on energy efficiency and conservation programs.

Bruce Sneed, Kansas Energy Council, (Attachment 3), offered testimony in support of **HB 2657** for a number of reasons. Mr. Sneed also offered an amendment (Attachment 4), to the bill that would clean up and make some necessary proposed changes.

Opponents:

Larry Holloway, KCC, (Attachment 5), offered testimony in opposition to **HB 2657** stating specific reasons why the KCC believes this legislation is not workable.

David Springe, CURB, (Attachment 6), presented testimony to **HB 2657** in opposition to some specific sections of the bill.

Michael Klein, Salvation Army, (Attachment 7), offered opposition testimony to **HB 2657** as they are concerned with section (b) of the bill that would allow utilities to reduce uncollectible bills of "high risk" residential customers by requiring "prepaid energy cards or similar programs".

Bobbi Mariani, SRS, (Attachment 8), offered comments in opposition to **HB 2657**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Utilities Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 2, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Questions were asked and comments offered by Representatives: Melody Miller, Forrest Knox, Josh Svaty, Vaughn Flora, Carl Holmes, and Tom Sloan.

Hearing closed on **HB 2657**.

Hearing on:

HB 2642 **Energy policy advisory group established; state energy plan.**

Representative Tom Sloan presented testimony, (Attachment 9), in support of **HB 2642** that would create a standing Kansas Energy Council as opposed to one that is by executive order only.

Charles Benjamin, Sierra Club, (Attachment 10), offered testimony in support of **HB 2642** and establishing a standing Energy policy advisory group.

Joe Harkins, Governors Staff, (Attachment 11), offered support of **HB 2642** with some changes in the form of amendments that are attached to his testimony.

Questions were asked and comments offered by Representatives: Lynne Oharah, Don Myers, Virginia Beamer, Tom Hawk, and Margaret Long.

Hearing on **HB 2642** was closed.

Chairman Holmes recommended that changes to the proposed bills be presented in formal amendment format.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2006.

Meeting Adjourned.