

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER:

The Committee on **Commerce, Labor and Economic Development** recommends **HB 2179** be amended on page 1, in line 31, before "There" by inserting "Whenever the secretary determines under K.S.A. 44-322a, and amendments thereto, that an employee has a valid claim for unpaid wages and determines that the amount of the claim is less than \$10,000, the secretary, upon the written request of the employee, may take an assignment of the claim in trust for such employee and shall take action appropriate to enforce or defend such claim. Whenever the secretary determines under K.S.A. 44-322a, and amendments thereto, that an employee has a valid claim for unpaid wages and determines that the amount of the claim is equal to or greater than \$10,000, the secretary, upon the written request of the employee, may take an assignment of the claim in trust for such employee and if the assignment is taken, shall take action appropriate to enforce or defend such claim. With the written consent of the assignor, the secretary may settle or adjust any claim assigned pursuant to this subsection. Whenever the secretary takes an assignment of a claim in trust for an employee under this section, the secretary shall charge and collect a fee therefor which fee shall be fixed by rules and regulations adopted by the secretary. The fee fixed by rules and regulations shall be in an amount of not more than \$25 per claim assigned under this section.

(c) If the secretary prevails on behalf of the employee, the court shall award a judgment to the agency in an amount equal to the cost of reasonable attorney fees for such action.

(d) "; and the bill be passed as amended.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson