

Approved:
Date: March 12, 2002

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 9:30 a.m. on March 6, 2002 in Room 234 N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
JoAnn Bunten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Terry Leatherman, Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Others attending: See attached list.

Hearing on HB 2247 - Kansas business health care partnership act; removal of sunset

Terry Leatherman, Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry, testified before the Committee in support of **HB 2247** which removes the sunset provision in the bill making the Kansas Business Health Partnership a permanent program for improving health care availability and affordability for low-income workers of small employers. Mr. Leatherman noted that a feature of the Partnership is its potential to increase that purchasing clout by banding small employers together in its cooperative concept, and that the subsidy component of the Partnership is another reason why it could attract insurance provider interest.

There were no opponents to the bill.

The Chair noted that several changes were recommended in the Kansas Business Health Partnership Act by the Kansas Business Health Policy Committee at their meeting in November 2001. Staff was directed to draft a balloon of the bill showing the proposed changes. The bill will be considered by the Committee when the amendments have been drafted.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2002.

CONTINUATION SHEET