

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Barnett at 1:37 P.M. on February 9, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Late Arrivals:

Journey 2:00

Wagle 1:40

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Norm Furse, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Diana Lee, Office of Revisors of Statutes

Morgan Dreyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Richard Maxfield, licensed psychologist

Sky Westerlund, Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers

Michael Donnelly, Director of Policy and Outreach, Disability Rights Center of Kansas

Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Behavioral Science Regulatory Board

Vicki Arnett, Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on SB-469—An act concerning the behavioral regulatory board; relating to impaired licenses

Chairman Barnett called upon the only proponent conferee, Dr. Richard Maxfield, licensed psychologist, stated to urge the Committee to favor the legislation as it recognizes the reality that the Behavioral Science Board licensees are not immune from physical, mental, or substance problems which might impair their practice. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chairman Barnett asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Questions came from Senators Wagle, and Schmidt, regarding licensing fees, differentiation of licensed pharmacist in their way of regulations. Chairman Barnett asked research, and Emalene clarified more information, Emalene, then asked to be excused from the meeting.

The first opponent conferee to testify was, Sky Westerlund, Executive Director of the Kansas Chapter National Association of Social Workers, stated that SB 469 causes concern because the basic architecture of the law cannot be altered through regulation. She offered recommendations to the bill that would welcome the opportunity to work closely and collaboratively with the Behavioral Science Regulatory Board on this legislation. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chairman Barnett asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Questions came from Senator Haley, regarding the suggestion of a balloon amendment, and betterment to understand language of bill request from research.

Chairman Barnett called upon the second opponent conferee, Michael Donnelly, Director of Policy and Outreach, Disability Rights Center of Kansas, stated that treating social workers who have disabilities differently than social workers without disabilities is discrimination. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chairman Barnett asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Questions came from Senators Haley, and Barnett, regarding if Sky's recommendations would benefits what she would want to

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be changed, and if research could review language for the Committee to better understand the bill.

Hearing on SB-470—An act concerning the behavioral sciences; relating to temporary licenses

Chairman Barnett called upon the first proponent conferee, Phyllis Gilmore, Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, stated the SB-470 amends the practice acts for four master level professions to restrict the issuing of temporary licenses, and that the bill would also shorten the length of time an individual may hold a temporary license and would disallow renewal or reissuing of a temporary license except for extenuating circumstances. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chairman Barnett asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Questions came from Senators V. Schmidt, and Brungardt, regarding continued ability to take a temporary license exam, and to clarify and close the door on facts about licensee who are ill or have left to which their license will become void. Norm Furse asked questions, regarding the effective dates needed on page 7, line 22 concerning the difference of 6 months, 12 months, and 24 months

The final proponent conferee was Vicki Arnett, Kansas Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, stated that social workers work with some of the most vulnerable persons in Kansas, and that these clients and the public are best served when the social worker is fully licensed. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 5) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Norm Furse clarified language on page seven and page nine, relating to the expiration of a temporary license.

The motion was made by Senator V. Schmidt that the amendment be made as stated by Norm Furse to clarify language relating to the expiration of a temporary license. It was seconded by Senator Jordan and the motion carried.

The motion was made by Senator V. Schmidt that the bill be moved out favorable as amended. It was seconded by Senator Wagle and the motion carried.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2006.