

Approved: March 20, 2007
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:37 A.M. on February 7, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Norman Furse, Revisor Emeritus
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Christopher Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Tim Madden, Senior Counsel, Kansas Department of Corrections
Christie Herrera, Director, Health and Human Services Task Force, ALEC

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

Senator Barone moved, with a second by Senator Kelly, to conceptually introduce a bill regarding law enforcement and benefits for Fraternal Order of Police similar to Fire Fighters. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to introduce a bill concerning Kansas state schools for the blind and the deaf, rates of compensation for teachers (7rs1106). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Schodorf moved, with a second by Senator Steineger, to introduce a bill concerning assessed valuation of certain property located in Cherokee county; gaming facilities (7rs1085). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Umbarger opened the public hearing on:

SB 157--Requiring the department of wildlife and parks to purchase vessel liability insurance

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed Christopher Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, who spoke in support of **SB 157** (Attachment 1). Mr. Tymeson explained that the bill was introduced on request of the Department. He explained that the Department feels it is prudent in light of the litigious nature of society today to purchase vessel liability insurance in order to provide better protection for the state and its employees as well as members of the public who could come into contact with state owned vessels.

There being no further conferees to come before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 157**.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Betts, to recommend **SB 157** favorable for passage.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:37 A.M. on February 7, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

SB 165--Increasing the limit of settlement authority of the secretary of corrections from \$500 to \$2,500

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Tim Madden, Senior Counsel, Kansas Department of Corrections, who testified in support of **SB 165** (Attachment 2). Mr. Madden explained that **SB 165** would increase the claim settlement authority of the Secretary of Corrections to \$2,500 which would be identical to the claim settlement authority currently provided to the University of Kansas Medical Center and the Kansas Highway Patrol. The \$500 settlement limitation for the Secretary was established in 1988. Mr. Madden provided additional detail in his written testimony.

There being no further conferees to come before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 165**.

Senator Emler moved, with a second by Senator Kelly, to recommend SB 165 favorable for passage. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Christie Herrera, Director, Health and Human Services Task Force, American Legislative Exchange Council, who provided an overview of Consumer-Directed Medicaid Reform (Attachment 3). Ms. Herrera addressed the following information:

- Reviewed Kansas Medicaid spending and enrollment.
- Compared Kansas Medicaid spending and enrollment with other states.
- Discussed Medicaid's perverse incentives that increase costs and decrease quality of care.
- Highlighted consumer-directed Medicaid reform components from Florida, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Kentucky, West Virginia and Idaho.
- Advocated that Kansas should incorporate consumer-directed components in its Medicaid program.

Committee questions and discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2007.