

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Emler at 10:30 a.m. on March 10, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Estelle Montgomery, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dylan Dear, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff
Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Wayne Bollig, Director of Veterans' Services, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs
Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Introduction of proposed legislation

Senator Apple appeared before the Committee to request the introduction of legislation to place a cap of 6 on the number of sexual predator in the transition house program per each county. This is the same legislation as introduced in **HB 2363**.

Senator Wysong moved to introduce the legislation to place a cap of 6 on the number of sexual predators in the transition house program per county. The motion was seconded by Senator Kelly. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator McGinn moved to introduce legislation to shift the responsibility of the funeral assistance program from the county to the state and include a requirement that a funeral provider must be licensed in the state of Kansas to participate in the program. The motion was seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Subcommittee Report on Kansas Commission on Veteran's Affairs (KCVA) including the Soldiers' Home and Veterans' Home

Senator Taddiken, Chair of the Subcommittee, presented the Subcommittee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for KCVA, including the Soldiers' Home and Veterans' Home for FY 2010 (Attachment 1).

The Committee brought attention to a recent article which appeared in the State Net Capitol Journal addressing Medicaid relief by moving veterans from Medicaid to Veterans Administration services at a savings of approximately \$16.2 million to the state of Washington.

Senator Taddiken moved to amend the Subcommittee report by adding language to request that the Legislative Research Department obtain additional information on the Washington report of moving veterans from Medicaid to the Veterans Administration services and review at Omnibus. The motion was seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Vratil moved to amend the Subcommittee report on the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs for FY 2010 by adding language to review the agency budget report during Omnibus. The motion was seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

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Responding to a question from the Committee with regard to the buildings on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home, Wayne Bollig, Director of Veterans' Services, KCVVA, stated that there are approximately 152 residents on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home with a number of those in cottages. Mr. Bollig noted that the facilities are operated like a small city with their own power and other facilities used for purposes beyond the care facilities. Of the 130 buildings on the grounds, approximately 116 of the buildings are currently being used.

Senator Kelly moved to amend the Subcommittee report by adding language to request a report from the agency by Omnibus on alternate use of unused buildings on the Soldiers' Home grounds to possibly generate revenue. The motion was seconded by Senator Kultala. Motion carried on a voice vote.

- The Committee requested a breakdown of the fees deposited in the KCVVA fee funds.

Senator Taddiken moved to adopt the Subcommittee report on KCVVA for FY 2010 as amended. The motion was seconded by Senator Kultala. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Subcommittee report on the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)

Senator McGinn, Chair of the Subcommittee, presented the Subcommittee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) for FY 2010 and moved for the adoption of the Subcommittee report on the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for FY 2010 with notations and adjustments (Attachment 2). The motion was seconded by Senator Kelly. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Additional information on proposed SRS budget reductions was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 3).

Subcommittee report on the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA)

Senator McGinn, Chair of the Subcommittee, presented the Subcommittee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) for FY 2010 with notations and adjustments (Attachment 4).

Amy Deckard, KLRD, and J. G. Scott, KLRD, responded to questions from the Committee concerning the various aspects of KHPA's FTE and non-FTE staff, classified and unclassified staff. Ms. Deckard noted that non-classified staff salaries are approved by the Governor and not subject to a pay schedule.

The Subcommittee noted that Item No. 9 was included in the Subcommittee report because salaries of the upper level of employees at KHPA are generally higher than comparable positions at SRS and felt that further review is warranted.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director, KHPA, felt that KHPA salaries are comparable to those at SRS and Kansas Board of Regents for similar positions. Ms. Nielsen indicated that KHPA is an independent agency and reports to a Board. In addition, Ms. Nielsen stated that KHPA determines policy for the state and felt that the agency takes on more responsibility than employees of other agencies. Ms. Nielsen noted that a number of the KHPA employees are experienced and have a high level of academic education.

Senator McGinn moved to amend Item No. 8 of the Subcommittee report on KHPA by correcting the number of FTE positions from 208.3 to 272.7 FTE. The motion was seconded by Senator Kelly. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Schmidt moved to amend Item No. 13 of the Subcommittee report on KHPA by adding the word "further" after "potentially". The motion was seconded by Senator Kelly. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator McGinn moved to adopt the Subcommittee report on KHPA for FY 2010 as amended. The motion was seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

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Action on SB 285 - KAN-ED; funding.

Information on Kan-ed Authorized Program - Changes was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 5).

Senator McGinn moved to amend SB 285 by adding language to provide for a sunset on June 30, 2012. The motion was seconded by Senator Kelly. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Committee felt that a sunset of June 30, 2012, will encourage the agency to look for alternate funding sources.

Senator Teichman moved to recommend SB 285 favorable for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Senator Umbarger. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.