

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Ryckman at 9:00 am on Thursday, February 11, 2016, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Kathy Holscher, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
David Fye, Legislative Research Department
Jennifer Ouellette, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes
J.G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Opening Remarks

Chairman Ryckman called the meeting to order.

Representative Highland made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2 and February 3 committee meetings. Representative Hawkins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion & possible action on: HB2513 — Limitation on meeting days of legislative sessions.

Chairman Ryckman opened discussion on **HB 2513**.

Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided an overview of the bill. He noted that a hearing on the bill was held on January 28, 2015. The bill concerns time limits for Legislative sessions. The Constitution provides that the even-numbered years have a 90 day session. The bill would add the odd-numbered years shall not exceed 60 days, but may be extended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in each house.

Representative Kleeb reviewed an amendment ([Attachment 1](#)) The amendment would add language that states sessions may be extended beyond 75 calendar days by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members elected (or appointed) to each house. The duration of regular sessions of the legislature held in even-numbered years shall not exceed 60 calendar days. Such sessions may be extended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) to each house. He reviewed the

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advantages of shorter legislative sessions, which would encourage prioritization of key legislation.

Discussion followed by committee members regarding the amendment. In response to clarification, Daniel Yoza stated that it would take a majority vote to extend the session past the 90 days and for the odd-numbered years, and the constitution calls for a 2/3 vote for the even-numbered years. Committee members discussed the budget process and the time frame involved.

Representative Kleeb made a motion for the approval of the amendment. Representative Kahrs seconded the motion.

Representative Suellentrop made a substitute motion that would include the language if the Governor returns to an annual budget reporting process, that both the odd-numbered and even-numbers years would not be less than seventy-five session days. Representative Carpenter seconded the motion.

Discussion followed by committee members regarding the substitute motion. Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, stated that the drafting of the bill needed to be consistent with the Constitution regarding the even-numbered years requirement of a two-thirds vote for extending the session. She reviewed that statute regarding the time frame for the Governor to submit the budget report, which is on or before the eighth calendar day of the regular session. The exception would be for a newly elected Governor, at which time this would change to twenty-one days. Committee members continued discussion on the substitute motion and the legislature's responsibility to address the key issues in a timely manner. Session time frames observed by other states are scheduled around the timing of information needed to begin their budgeting work. It was noted that in Kansas, Leadership determines the session schedule.

Representative Suellentrop renewed the substitute motion. Motion carried.

Representative Schwartz made a motion for favorable passage of HSub for HB 2513. Representative Kleeb seconded the motion.

Discussion followed by committee members regarding the motion. It was suggested that further discussion may be needed on this bill in the future. In many states, several special sessions are scheduled, and only once in sixteen years, has Kansas held a special session, it was noted.

Representative Schwartz renewed the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion & possible action on: SB241 — Amending the procedure for the approval of state contracts.

Chairman Ryckman opened discussion on the bill.

Daniel Yoza provided the bill brief on **SB 241**. A hearing on the bill was held on January 19,

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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2015, which regards filing lease agreements on-line, requires an electronic form, and removes the countersignature requirement.

The discussion on the bill was closed.

Discussion & possible action on: SB249 — Purchasing; competitive bids; vehicle repairs.

Chairman opened discussion on the bill.

Daniel Yoza provided a briefing on the bill regarding competitive bids. A hearing on the bill was held on January 19, 2015.

Chairman Ryckman asked the Office of the Revisor of Statutes staff if **SB 249** and **SB 241** could be combined. And the response was that both bills could be combined. It was noted that technical amendments on bills carried over need to be referenced in order to be updated.

Representative Schwartz made a motion to combine the contents of SB 241 and SB 249 into SB 241, with the inclusion of the technical amendments, favorable for passage. Representative Claeys seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill introductions

Representative Hutton made a motion to introduce legislation regarding the authority of state agencies entering into indebtedness. Representative Rhoades seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Representative Barker made a motion to introduce legislation regarding SB 440 and the Judiciary. Representative Suellentrop seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:08 a.m.