

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on March 14, 2002 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Nancey Harrington
Senator Jim Barnett (EA)
Ms. Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Committee staff present: Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mr. R. E. "Tuc" Duncan, KS Occupational Therapy Assoc.

Others attending: See attached guest list.

Hearing on HB2315 - an act concerning occupational therapists licensure

Chairperson Susan Wagle opened the meeting by announcing there would be a hearing on HB2315, an act concerning occupational therapists licensure. She asked Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes to give a briefing on the bill.

Mr. Furse summarized the major policy changes in the bill:

1. Scope of practice extensively rewritten and updated;
2. Supervision required of an OT (occupational therapist) changed and considerably broadened from current law language;
3. Creates new classification of provider (OTA or occupational therapy aide);
4. Changes title from "registered" to "licensed";
5. Those not construed to be practicing OT are listed in Sec 10; and
6. Some services may be provided by an OT without prior referral or supervision of another health care provider.

He stated other changes are technical in nature in the internal references to years are updated and the effective date of the legislation would be April 1, 2003. A copy of his memorandum is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

As he stood before the Committee for questions, the Chair recognized Senator Brungardt who asked if line 32, page 9, Sec. C, was changed in the House to which Mr. Furse answered that the entire section was worked by the House.

Written testimony was next on the agenda. A copy of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine testimony, presented by Mr. Chip Wheelen, Executive Director is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

The Chair then introduced the only conferee to testify, Mr. R. E. "Tuc" Duncan, Kansas Occupational Therapy Association, who stated that the bill provides a new definition of the "practice of occupational therapy", clarifies the manner in which applicants for licensure are examined, specifically identifies individuals who shall not be construed to be practicing occupational therapy, and permits education-related therapy services. Mr. Duncan also included a chart indicating jurisdictions regulating OT's and two maps indicating where OT's are located in Kansas. A copy of his proponent testimony and attachments are (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

As there was no opponent testimony to be heard, the Chair then asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Questions and comments from Mr. Furse, Senators Wagle and Salmans ranging from seven states recognizing OTAs', what year did the KOTA obtain credentialing, better third party reimbursement so as to be beneficial to the consumer, to language change from "client" to "individual".

As there was no more discussion, the Chair closed the hearing on the bill and adjourned the meeting.

Adjournment

Adjournment time was at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2002.

CONTINUATION SHEET