

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on February 4, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Don Hill- excused  
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Legislative Research  
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor  
Susan Allen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Sean Gatewood  
Mary Prewitt, General Counsel, Kansas Board of Regents  
Deborah Stern RN, JD, Kansas Hospital Association

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Chairman Sloan called the Committee's attention to a letter to the Kansas Board of Regents from Senator Pat Roberts concerning the Congressional Higher Education Act (Attachment 1).

**HB 2536 - Concerning state educational institutions and resident tuition rates.**

Chairman Sloan opened the hearings on **HB 2536**

Mr. Sean Gatewood testified as a proponent of the bill. Mr. Gatewood's testimony described his wife's unsuccessful attempts to secure resident tuition status at the University of Kansas. Ms. Gatewood was granted resident status at Pittsburg State University. Mr. Gatewood expressed concern that residency determination was not consistent among the Regents' institutions (Attachment 2).

The Chair recognized Representative Flora sponsor of the bill. Representative Flora explained that Mr. and Mrs. Gatewood are his constituents, and he thanked the Committee for considering the bill.

Mary Prewitt, General Counsel, Kansas Board Regents, testified as an opponent of the bill and explained that the status of residency is determined by the registrar or admitting officer at the State university where the student plans to matriculate and is based on the facts as they exist at that time, and is guided by existing Kansas statutes. One of those requirements is the intent to be a permanent resident of the State at the time that they apply. Ms. Prewitt told the Committee that **HB 2536** would require the student's previous residency determination to be a factor in determination of residency at another Regent's school, which is already taken into consideration when a student changes from one institution to another within the Regents' system. Ms. Prewitt stated that she was not aware of any other cases where a student has received two different determinations of residency status from Regents' institutions (Attachment 3).

Chairman Sloan reminded the Committee that **HB 2536** was one of a number of bills the Committee would be hearing relating to tuition at four year educational institutions.

The Chairman opened the floor for questions.