

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Lane at 10:05 a.m. on January 20, 2000 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Rick Rehorn - excused

Committee staff present: Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes  
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department  
Bev Adams, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Kathleen Sebelius, Kansas Insurance Commissioner

Others attending: See attached list

Introduction of Bills:

There was no one present to introduce bills.

Chairman Lane announced that tomorrow's meeting with the Department of Revenue has been canceled and will be rescheduled soon.

Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius was welcomed to the committee by Chairman Lane.

Commissioner Sebelius introduced several members of her department: Bill Wempe, Director, Fire and Casualty Division; Paula Greathouse, Staff Attorney; Linda De Coursey, Director, Government Affairs Division; and Dick Cook, Fire and Casualty.

Commissioner Sebelius explained to the committee the part the Insurance Department is involved with concerning workers compensation; the licensing of insurance companies who sell workers comp insurance, administering the group funded pools, and running the Workers' Compensation Fund. The fund encourages the employment of persons handicapped as a result of specific impairments. The fund has three areas of coverage for employers and employees: second injury coverage, insolvent/uninsured employers, and reimbursement to employers on an overpayment of benefits. Most of the workers' comp business (such as: how benefits are paid, how quickly the process is done, whether the benefits are adequate or not, and the issues about getting workers back to work) is administered by the Department of Human Resources.

Commissioner Sebelius brought the committee up to date on the workers' comp insurance market and the most recent rate filing, which will result in a .7% decrease and will save Kansas employers \$2 million in premiums.

She ended her presentation by answering questions from the committee. Attached is an outline containing an update of Kansas workers' compensation information, a listing of the workers' compensation rate assessment for 1991-2000, and the 1999 Year End Report for the Kansas Workers Compensation Fund. (See Attachment 1)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 26.