

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:10 a.m. on March 14, 2000 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
David Wilson, Kansas Arts Commission
Representative Kay O'Connor
Carla Norcott-Mahany, Planned Parenthood
Melissa Ness, Kansas Children's Service League
Cleta Renyer, Right to Life, Kansas
Don Wilson, Kansas Hospital Association
Senator Lana Oleen

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairman Oleen announced that her mother and sister were attending the committee and introduced her mother, Fran Scrimsher and her sister, Patti Spencer.

The chair opened the hearing on:

HB 2592 - Kansas Arts Commission

Chairman Oleen recognized David Wilson, Kansas Arts Commission, a proponent to **HB 2592**. Mr. Wilson stated that this bill resulted from the Joint Committee on the Arts and Cultural Resources meeting the past summer. (Attachment 1) Mr. Wilson stated that the primary purpose of the bill is to change the length of Commissioner terms from one four year term to a maximum of two three year terms. He stated that the Kansas Arts Commission feels these changes will help the Commission move forward in the future.

Senator Biggs told the committee that he serves on the Joint Committee on the Arts and Cultural Resources and the committee fully endorses this bill.

Senator Gooch ask Mr. Wilson if the appointment of the board members were staggered to ensure that they did not all expire at the same time and Mr. Wilson stated that they were.

Chairman Oleen closed the hearing on **HB 2592**.

Chairman Oleen announced that Representative Kay O'Connor is on final action in the House of Representatives. The committee will accommodate her schedule when she arrives.

Mary Galligan gave a brief review of **SB 652** to the members. She stated this bill would provide a procedure by which the parent of a child less than 46 days old could be given to a medical facility and in the process of abandonment, the parent would be protected from prosecution.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS, Room 245-N
Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m. on March 14, 2000.

Chairman Oleen opened hearing on:

SB 652 Newborn protection act

Chairman Oleen recognized Joyce Allegrucci, Assistant Secretary of Children and Family Policy, Social and Rehabilitation Services, as a proponent of the bill. Ms. Allegrucci stated that this bill would provide added protection to children. (Attachment 2). She stated that SRS does suggest some amendments to the bill and provided a balloon outline their proposals. Ms. Allegrucci stated that SRS strongly supports the intent and the goal of **SB 652**.

Chairman Oleen recognized Carla Norcott-Mahany, Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, a proponent of **SB 652**. Ms. Norcott-Mahany stated the need for creating safe havens for the parents of newborns to relinquish custody has been illustrated all too clearly by recent incidents. (Attachment 3). .

Chairman Oleen recognized Melissa Ness, Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL), a proponent to **SB 652**. Mr. Ness stated that KCSL is committed to keeping children safe, families strong, and communities involved and prevention and early intervention is a core commitment. (Attachment 4). She noted that this bill promotes a coordinated response toward getting the abandoned infants into a appropriate care environment.

Chairman Oleen stated that Representative O'Connor was present and recognized her as a proponent on this bill. Representative O'Connor stated that she had introduced similar legislation in the House as **HB 2927**. Representative O'Connor had several concerns about the bill as written which she believed could be corrected by the committee. (Attachment 5). Representative O'Connor provided question and answer information from the Texas State Representative Geanie Morrison who drafted the first bill designed to save abandoned newborns. (Attachment 6).

Chairman Oleen recognized Cleta Renyer, Right to Life of Kansas, as a proponent to **SB 652**. Right to Life of Kansas supports this bill because it could save the life of a newborn infant. (Attachment 7 and attached was an article from Time, February 21, 2000 "A Refuge for Throwaways"). Ms. Renyer stated that Right to Life of Kansas recommends that the age of the infant be thirty days or younger and that there be a 14 day period when the parent can change their mind.

Mr. Donald Wilson spoke on behalf of the Kansas Hospital Association, regarding **SB 652**. Mr. Wilson stated that the Kansas Hospital Association was a supporter of the bill but had outlined several issues which they felt needed to be addressed regarding procedures. (Attachment 8).

Senator Oleen addressed the committee as a supporter of **SB 652** and stated that a community in her District had a tragic occurrence last December when a young couple left a newborn in a creek to die. Copies of the news articles were provided to committee members (Articles from The Daily Union, Junction City, Kansas.). Senator Oleen urged the committee to support the concept in the bill, knowing that procedural changes are needed. She indicated a willingness to work with interested parties to enhance the bill.

Chairman Oleen called the committee's attention to written testimony submitted by proponents to **SB 652** by The Manhattan Department of Fire Services (Attachment 9); Kansas State Nurses Association, Topeka, (Attachment 10) and First United Methodist Church, Manhattan, Kansas (Attachment 11).

Conferees answered questions from committee members concerning the number of babies abandon over the last year, the notification process and length of time it would take to complete the process.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05. The next meeting will be March 15, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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245-N Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m. on March 14, 2000.