

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Lane at 9:06 a.m. on January 23, 2002 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

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

Committee staff present: Jerry Donaldson, Legislative Research
Rena Jeffries, Revisor of Statutes
Bev Adams, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Steve Rarrick, Deputy Attorney General
Barb Reavis, Office of the Governor
Kris Kitchen, Exec. Director, Heartland Works

Others attending: See attached list

Introduction of Bills

Steve Rarrick appeared before the committee to introduce two bills. The first one would make the transaction of business without required federal, state, or local licenses an unconscionable act and practice under the Kansas Consumer Protection Act (KCPA). The second would address the problem of consumer contracts containing automatic renewal provisions for one year or more by declaring them unconscionable acts unless specified notice is provided to the consumer prior to the automatic renewal period. (Attachment 1)

Rep. Johnson made a motion to introduce the two proposals as committee bills. The motion was seconded by Rep. Long. The motion passed.

Presentation on Workforce Network of Kansas

Barb Reavis, Workforce Development Coordinator, Office of the Governor, appeared before the committee to give a presentation on the Workforce Network of Kansas. This is the group formerly known as the Kansas Workforce Investment Partnership or KWIP. A few themes of concern she explained are: 1) what is workforce development? 2) what are we getting for our money? 3) who is in charge? and where is the money being spent? She ended her presentation by answering questions from the committee. (Attachment 2)

Ms. Reavis introduced Kris Kitchen, Executive Director of Heartland Works. Heartland Works is a private not-for-profit business that administers the federally funded Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Welfare-To-Work (WtW) programs and is the One-Stop Operator in the seventeen county area of Northeast Kansas, also known as Local Area II. She talked about the Partnerships and Challenges of a One-Stop Center from a local perspective. She concluded her testimony by answering questions from the committee. (Attachment 3).

She personally invited each committee member to visit the One-Stop Center in Topeka - located at 1430 SW Topeka Boulevard.

Chairman Lane adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2002.