

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on February 14, 2006 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Judy Loganbill- excused

Committee staff present:  
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Rena Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes  
Helen Pedigo, Revisor of Statutes  
Carlene Maag, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Jim Snyder, Silver Haired Legislature  
Bob North - Department of Commerce  
Ernie Kutzley - AARP Kansas  
Shirley Bramhall, Area Agency on Aging Office, Manhattan

Others attending:  
See attached list.

A motion was made by Representative Wolf and seconded by Representative Huntington to approve the minutes from the meetings of January 31 and February 2, 2006. A vote was taken, motion passed.

**HB 2194 - State workforce investment program, state and local boards membership, older Kansans designated special target population**

Staff gave an overview of **HB 2194** which changes the structure of the state workforce investment board and the local workforce investment board. This bill would add one representative of non profit agencies and organizations and public bodies providing services to person seeking employment through the older Kansas employment program and one representative of area agencies on aging.

There would not be a fiscal effect to the change in the boards.

Jim Snyder, Kansas Silver Haired Legislator, spoke as a proponent for **HB 2194**. He proposed sub paragraphs "b" and "c" be deleted and sub paragraph "d" be renumbered as "b".

The definition of older person as used in section (d) means a resident of the state of Kansas who is 55 years of age or older.

Prior to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Kansas had a job training partnership act. (JTPA) Under this program, there was some "set-aside" monies which were used exclusively to help those older Kansans who either wanted to return to the workforce or, who had to return to the workforce. Since the changeover to WIA, there has been nothing "set aside" to work with this group.

The Rules and Regulations from Dept of Labor state the Governor is required to describe in the state plan how the state will serve the employment and training needs of individuals with multiple barrier to employment (including older individuals and individuals with disabilities. (Attachment 1))

Ernest Kutzley, Advocacy Directory, AARP Kansas, presented testimony as a proponent for **HB 2194**. AARP is extremely committed to expanding employment opportunities providing access to jobs through training. 44% of the 35 million AARP members, 50 years of age and older work full or part time.

AARP Kansas supports policy changes that would include older job seekers as a hard-to-serve population under the WIA in order to provide funding to the Older Kansas's Employment Program under the state set-aside reserve funds. (Attachment 2)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Economic Development Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 14, 2006 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Shirley Bramhall representing the Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association (K4A) gave testimony as a proponent for **HB 2194**. The North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, Inc. serves older Kansans in 18 counties. The federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is the major source of federal monies received to serve job-seekers. Under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) there was a specific “set-aside” to serve hard-to-serve job-seekers. WIA eliminated the specific “Set Aside” monies available to serve seekers over 55.

**HB 2194**, advances fairness for older job-seekers in the workforce system. It will strengthen the state’s workforce system and the economy for the silver-hairs future. (Attachment 3) Ms. Bramhall presented the Committee with a copy of, “Keynotes”, a publication for older Kansans and their families.

Robert North, Chief Attorney, Kansas Department of Commerce stated Commerce does not have a position pertaining to **HB 2194**, but thought the bill would have a significant effect on the composition of Kansas state and local workforce investment boards as well as the possibility of federal preemption of board composition requirements.

Two of Kansas’ five local workforce investment boards are alternative entities. If the membership structure of an alternative entity is significantly changed, new boards would have to be established. **HB 2194** would constitute a significant change in the membership structure of the State and local boards in Kansas. (Attachment 4)

Committee was provided written testimony, (Attachment 5, (Attachment 6) and (Attachment 7).

Discussion followed the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16.