

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:35 A.M. on February 1, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Carolyn McGinn- excused
Senator Jean Schodorf- excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes Office
Michael Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Judy Bromich, Chief of Staff
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Paul Johnson and Sister Therese Bangert, Kansas Catholic Conference
Jamie Corkhill, Policy Attorney, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

Senator Barone moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to introduce a bill concerning nursing home residents; relating to the personal needs allowance (5rs1847). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Teichman moved, with a second by Senator Betts, to introduce a bill concerning funding for long term care home and community based services (5rs1819). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Steineger moved, with a second by Senator Wysong, to introduce a bill concerning the Kansas water office; establishing the water supply storage assurance fund (5rs1935). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Paul Johnson and Sister Therese Bangert of the Kansas Catholic Conference who presented an overview of child support enforcement observations and recommendations. Sister Therese explained that the Kansas Catholic Conference has long had an interest in child support enforcement in the years after welfare reform. She noted that the Conference's bottom line concern regarding the child support issue is that if children have both children involved in their lives they are healthier.

Mr. Johnson, Kansas Catholic Conference, provided information about the Kansas Payment Center (Attachment 1). He noted that the Kansas Payment Center distributed \$350 million in child support in 2004. Mr. Johnson also addressed parts of the following information:

- In the SRS CSE system, only 54.4 percent of current monthly support in 2005 was paid.
- Legislation will be considered this session to provide case managers more collection tools.
- The Kansas Payment Center has made remarkable progress in now processing 165,000 payment distributions monthly with very few glitches.
- The child support system is incredibly important to the survival and well being of so many Kansas families.

Mr. Johnson explained that the Kansas Catholic Conference supports **SB 420** for the following reasons:

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:35 A.M. on February 1, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

- the changes it makes to clarify the disbursement of cash
- this clarification allows SRS the opportunity to develop an in-house call center
- this clarification also allows SRS to handle unclaimed payments without suffering federal penalties

Chairman Umbarger opened the public hearing on:

SB 420--Amendments to the Kansas payment center statute; repealing the sunset provision regarding the state being fined for lack of compliance with title IV-D

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Gary Daniels, Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, who introduced Jamie Corkhill, Senior and Policy Attorney, Child Support Enforcement Program, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, who spoke in support of the bill (Attachment 2).

Ms. Corkhill explained that Key to the Kansas Payment Center's ability to transmit child support rapidly is the ability to accept and process checks that are not made payable to the Kansas Payment Center. She noted that **SB 420** corrects this oversight, and because it should have been in place back in 2000 when the Kansas Payment Center began processing checks, the change is made retroactive to that date. Ms. Corkhill addressed other information that is contained in her written testimony that applied to the bill.

Committee questions and discussion followed. There being no further conferees to come before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 420**.

Senator Emler moved, with a second by Senator Wysong, to recommend **SB 420** favorable for passage. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for February 2, 2006.