

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Brunk at 9:15 A.M. on January 31, 2008 in Room 784 of the DSOB.

All members were present except:

Brenda Landwehr- excused	Mario Goico-excused
Candy Ruff- excused	Mike Kiegerl-excused
Kasha Kelley- excused	

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Renaë Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Stephen Bainum, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

David Kerr, Secretary, Department of Commerce  
Rae Anne Davis, Deputy Secretary of Workforce Services, Department of Commerce  
Blake Flanders, Director of Workforce Training & Education Services, Department of Commerce  
Keith Meyers, Director of Training Services, Department of Commerce

Others attending: See attached list.

The chairman called for any Bill Introductions. Natalie Bright, Government Affairs Consultant for the Wichita Independent Business Association introduced a bill about Age Discrimination, making Kansas law compliant with the Federal Age Law. It was received without objection.

Sherry Diel, Executive Director, Kansas Real Estate Commission introduced a bill about Amendments to real estate brokers' and salespersons' license act; advertising. It was also received without objection.

Representative Huntington asked Secretary Kerr if Commerce could do the same thing with the same amount of money as the Travel and Tourism Commission. Secretary Kerr stressed the need for grass roots support for travel and tourism. If the initiative does not move forward Commerce needs to form an advisory board to ensure that we have broad based support from the people in the industry. He stressed that Commerce has not cut the budget for travel and tourism.

Secretary Kerr introduced Rae Anne Davis, Blake Flanders and Keith Meyers who shared the explanation of a PowerPoint presentation about Training Programs, Workforce Services and KansasWorks (**Attachment 1**).

Representative Grant asked how much Federal money was received for these programs. Rae Anne replied that it was about 20 million dollars. The amount is dependent upon the unemployment rate in Kansas.

Representative Brunk asked if Commerce had discretion regarding how the money was divided. Rae Anne said that they had absolutely no discretion and the division of funds was driven by the Federal formula. Neither was the 10% set aside discretionary except that they do not say in what area it must be spent.

Secretary Kerr said that they were trying to build in more flexibility to meet immediate needs for companies.

Representative Huntington said that the Joint Economic Development Committee had proposed that we write our congressmen to designate training for those 55 and older. They are now included in adult training. Rae Anne said that in Kansas those 55 and older are a priority group.

Rae Anne continued with an explanation of the KansasWorks Program. She discussed the role of higher education and the problems of under supply and over supply of graduates in particular areas. She concluded with recommendations for KansasWorks State Board to develop.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2008.