

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Morris at 10:35 a.m. on February 14, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Nick Jordan - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Paul West, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Leah Robinson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Becky Krahl, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Kramer, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Assistant to the Chairman
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

George Vega, Executive Director, Human Resources, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Andy Sanchez, Kansas Association of Public Employees (KAPE)
Terry Roberts, Kansas State Nurses Association

Others attending: See attached list

Subcommittee report on:

Capital Improvements (Attachment 1)

Subcommittee Chairman Morris reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendations for FY 2002 and FY 2003 with various comments, observations and adjustments throughout the subcommittee budget report.

Committee questions and detailed discussion followed regarding the tunnel project. Senator Kerr suggested that the Statehouse Architect come in to speak to the Committee to clarify items regarding the tunnel project. Chairman Morris stated that he would schedule Joe Fritton, Division of Facilities Management, Department of Administration, and the Statehouse Architect to come visit with the Committee.

Regarding the Board of Regents, the Committee came to a consensus to drop the reference to **HB 2690** (concerning university research and development enhancement act) itself and place language in the subcommittee report to consider the concept of the bill.

Senator Barone moved, with a second by Senator Kerr, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on Capital Improvements for the FY 2002 and FY 2003 budget. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Bill Introductions

Senator Kerr moved, with a second by Senator Salmans, to introduce a bill concerning school finance; relating to the definition of pupil (1rs2177). Motion carried on a voice vote.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Senator Feleciano moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to introduce a bill relating to courtrooms and supplies (1rs2165). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 509--State civil service; unclassified officers; SRS, physician's assistants and ARNPs

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

George Vega, Executive Director, Human Resources, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, testified in support of **SB 509 (Attachment 2)**. Mr. Vega mentioned in his testimony that the bill would add Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to the classified service. Mr. Vega offered the proposed modifications:

- As a clean-up measure, eliminate the language “long term care workers.” To our knowledge, the state no longer employs Long Term Care Workers.
- Change the general language “other health care professionals” to specify registered nurses, physical therapists and occupational therapists.
- Adds language to assure classified employees are unaffected by future.

Andy Sanchez, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Public Employees (KAPE), who testified in opposition to **SB 509 (Attachment 3)**. Mr. Sanchez mentioned that they believe that the Classified Service attempts to guarantee fairness and that is worth something. He asked that the Committee consider other solutions of commitment rather than a quick fix that may or may not accomplish the desired outcome.

Terry Roberts, Executive Director, Kansas State Nurses Association, spoke regarding several issues on **SB 509 (Attachment 4)**. Ms. Roberts testified that the Kansas State Nurses Association questions whether the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services should have the authority to select categories for “unclassified” positions. She mentioned that a nursing shortage is emerging and it will worsen through 2005. Ms. Roberts suggested that a variety of recruitment strategies must be explored by SRS to preserve their workforce in the future.

Committee questions and discussion followed. Chairman Morris thanked the conferees for their appearance before the Committee. There being no further conferees to come before the meeting, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 509**.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2002.