

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Morris at 10:40 a.m. on February 25, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: All present

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Assistant to the Chairman
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Duane Goossen, Director, Division of the Budget
David Lake, Administrator, Board of Emergency Medical Services
Bob Orth, President, Kansas Emergency Technicians Association
Jason White, Vice President, Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association
Gale Haag, State Fire Marshal

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Morris referred the following bill to the KPERS Issues Subcommittee:

SB 2619--Employer contributions for tax sheltered annuities for certain school district and community college employees

A letter from Janet Schalansky, Secretary, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, was distributed in response to questions raised in the meeting of February 19, 2002, during the SRS Subcommittee budget report (Attachment 1).

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 619--State finance council, voting procedures

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

Duane Goossen, Director, Division of the Budget, spoke in favor of **SB 619**. (No written testimony was submitted.) Director Goossen explained that the Division of the Budget asked for the bill in order to expedite how emergency fund money can be released. The Director noted that at the time of the Hoisington tornado about a year ago that there were a couple of meetings of the State Finance Council when they could not get the full committee assembled. Director Goossen mentioned that this bill would allow members to vote by proxy so emergency money could be released in a timely way because the statute requires a unanimous vote to release such funds.

Committee questions and discussion followed. Chairman Morris thanked Director Goossen for appearing before the Committee. There being no further conferees to come before the meeting, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 619**.

Senator Kerr moved, with a second by Senator Jackson, to amend **SB 619** to reduce the time frame for which a member who cannot be present may certify an absentee vote from 30 days to 10 days and recommend **SB 619** favorably for passage as amended. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 508--Emergency medical services board, financial support, authorizing certain transfers

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

David Lake, Administrator, Board of Emergency Medical Services, testified in support of **SB 508** (Attachment 2). Mr. Lake explained that he had asked for consideration of a proposal identifying a couple of potential alternate sources of funding for his agency. He noted in testimony that these sources include a levy on certain insurance premiums. Mr. Lake mentioned that increased funds would provide more technical assistance, education, training and support to the State's ambulance services and providers and has the potential for reducing losses paid out by those same insurance companies.

Bob Orth, President, Kansas Emergency Medical Technicians Association, spoke in favor of **SB 508** (Attachment 3). Mr. Orth explained in testimony that if the Board of Emergency Medical Services can find an alternate, stable source of adequate funding and be able to utilize the funds that are generated by fees, the following things would occur:

- The Board of Emergency Medical Services will be able to provide the services and oversight necessary to assure customers of local ambulances that professional care is available to them when they need it, and
- approximately \$560,000.00 State General Fund dollars would be available for other uses.

Jason White, Vice President, Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA), spoke in favor of **SB 508** (Attachment 4). Mr. White explained that KEMSA represents EMT's, paramedics and the ambulance services around Kansas that provide critical services to the residents and guests coming to the State. He mentioned in testimony that having a stable source of funding for the Board of Emergency Medical Services can significantly improve the agency.

Gale Haag, State Fire Marshall, testified regarding **SB 508**. Mr. Haag's attachment includes information regarding the Fire Marshal Fee Fund (Attachment 5). Mr. Haag expressed concern regarding the hazardous material fund and mentioned those dollars would be spent by July 1 of this year. Mr Haag explained that for accountability, that money was collected for fire protection and prevention and spent for nothing else.

Committee questions and discussion followed each conferee and the Chairman thanked each conferee for their appearance before the Committee. There being no further conferees to come before the Committee, the hearing was closed on **SB 508**

Senator Kerr moved, with a second by Senator Jordan, an amendment for conceptual substitute to impose a .25 percent on all fire business for the purposes of maintaining the Board of Emergency Medical Services and to reduce the tax imposed for the purpose of maintaining the Office of the State Fire Marshal from 1.25 percent to 1.0 percent and publish effective with the Kansas Register. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Kerr expressed concern regarding alignment between charge and service because a lot of Emergency Medical Service relates to auto accidents and that maybe, if as a user fee, that concept should be looked at with automobile polices as a source, too.

Senator Feleciano requested a listing of the cities the Fire Marshall contracted with in regard to the Hazardous Material Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2002.