

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Donald Dahl at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2003 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Joe Humerickhouse, Unexcused
Representative Rick Rehorn, Unexcused

Committee staff present: Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

The Chairman called the meeting to order and asked if there was anyone requesting bill introductions.

Susan L. Somers, Executive Director, Board of Accountancy, requested the introduction of 3 bills; (1) recouping the cost of subpoenas, (2) uniform Certified Public Accountant examinations and (3) fees for a permit to practice as a certified public accountant in this state.

Representative Johnson moved and Representative Novascone seconded to accept the three bill requests for introduction. The motion carried.

Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), gave a briefing on inmate work programs. One of the key goals articulated by KDOC in its strategic action plan is to increase offenders' abilities and motivation to practice responsible crime-free behavior. One of the primary objectives identified in support of this goal is to increase opportunities for inmates to acquire work skills. KDOC has increased the emphasis on improving the processes related to offender re-entry into the community. Employability and the ability to have sustained employment is often a critical factor in reducing recidivism and in an offender's successful transition to community life.

KDOC inmates are expected to participate in work or program assignments. Work assignments provide for productive use of time, helping offenders develop work skills and appreciation for the work ethic, and they also reinforce responsible behavior. Work release and private industry jobs also help inmates accumulate financial resources in preparation for release. The work release and private industry inmates pay taxes, reimburse the state for room and board, make crime victim compensation payments, and pay court-ordered obligations. Community service and facility work details receive between 40 cents and \$1.05 per day. Traditional correctional industry workers receive from 25 cents to 60 cents per hour, depending on work performance and longevity. Private correctional industries, which are private companies that operate within or in close proximity to KDOC, pay at least the federal minimum wage. Inmates who participate in education and treatment programs earn up to \$1.05 per day (See Attachment #1).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2003 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

There was discussion and Representative Grant suggested a committee field trip to one of the prison locations. The Chairman requested that any member interested in a field trip contact either him or the secretary. If enough interest was shown a trip could be arranged.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. The next meeting will be January 28.