

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on February 9, 2005, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: John Vratil- excused

Committee staff present: Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education

SB 42–Teacher certification fee; amount

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education, testified in support of **SB 42**. He explained that the current \$24 fee for renewal of teacher licenses has not been raised since 1987 and that revenue collected from the fee can only be used for certifying teachers. He noted that certification expenses have increased since 1987. For example, all new teachers must be finger printed, and one employee is needed to complete that process. Each year, the Department has economized, but the current fee is no longer enough to cover certification expenses. The bill strikes the language in K.S.A. 72-1387 which places a cap of \$24 per license and allows the State Board of Education to determine the fee in order to balance the budget. Mr. Dennis noted that the fee would be raised by approximately \$12 and that, even with the increase, Kansas' certification fee would still be lower than the certification fee in most states. (Attachment 1)

There being no others wishing to testify, Senator Schodorf closed the hearing on **SB 42**.

SB 43–Driver training courses; payments from State Safety Fund

Mr. Dennis testified in support of **SB 43**. He explained that it amends statutes concerning the State Safety Fund which provides funding for driver education courses approved by the State Board of Education. The law places a cap of \$1,540,000 in state aid to schools for driver training courses, which is distributed on an annual basis. He explained further that current law provides that a certain percentage of driver's license fees must be deposited in the State Safety Fund of the Department of Education. These fees have been increased in recent years, increasing the revenues to the State Safety Fund. As a result, there is more money available for distribution to school districts than the statute allows. The bill would amend K.S.A. 8-272 by striking the cap and providing that the amount earmarked for driver education reimbursement be available for distribution to schools to reimburse them for the number of students completing driver education. (Attachment 2)

With regard to subsection (b) of the bill, Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office, asked Mr. Dennis if the Board intended to include eliminating the cap on the Motorcycle Safety Fund for approved courses in motorcycle safety included in approved courses in driver training. Mr. Dennis said that the Board did not address the Motorcycle Safety Fund because the cap had not been reached in that area. However, he supported amending the bill to eliminate the cap for the Motorcycle Safety Fund. He noted that there was also a cap for the Truck Driver Training Fund.

Senator Apple moved to strike the cap for the Motorcycle Safety Fund in subsection (b) of SB 43 and to strike the cap for the Truck Driver Training Fund in subsection (c), seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion carried.

There being no others wishing to testify, Senator Schodorf closed the hearing on **SB 43**.

Senator Lee moved to recommend SB 42 favorably for passage, seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion carried.

Senator Teichman moved to recommend SB 43 favorably for passage as amended, seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. The motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 9, 2005, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Senator Schodorf opened a discussion on a previously heard bill, **SB 49** concerning laws governing school district contracts and courts of jurisdiction for school districts. She reminded the Committee that, at the hearing on the bill, Mark Desetti, KNEA, expressed concern about the impact the bill might have on insurance contracts with insurance companies located outside Kansas. He informed the Committee that he had contacted the Insurance Commissioner's office to see if state regulations would take care of the situation, but he had not received an answer before the hearing on the bill. He agreed to follow-up and report back to the Committee. Mr. Desetti stood to inform the Committee that he had still had not been able to get an answer from the Insurance Commissioner's office. He commented that, in all probability, in order for a school board to enter into a contract with an out-of-state insurance company, the company would have to be licensed in Kansas and would be subject to Kansas law.

Senator Teichman moved to recommend **SB 49** favorably for passage, seconded by Senator Pine. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2005.