

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:40 A.M. on February 22, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Michael Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office  
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Matt Spurgin, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Judy Bromich, Chief of Staff  
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Randall Bailes, Kansas State Historical Society  
Clark Balderson, Pottawatomie County Economic Development  
Dick Seaton, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Audubon of Kansas, Inc.  
Michelle Crisler, Landowner, Wamego  
Katie Carlgren, Wabaunsee County Economic Development Council  
Carol Duffy McDowell, Flint Hills Tallgrass Prairie Heritage Foundation

Others attending:

See attached list.

### **Bill Introductions**

Senator Emler moved, with a second by Senator Barone, to introduce a bill concerning state officers and employees, salaries and compensation, increases for FY 2007, certain expense allowances, classified step movement for FY 2007. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Copies of the Kansas Legislative Research Department Budget Analysis Report for FY 2006 and FY 2007 were made available to the Committee.

### **Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services(Attachment 1)**

Subcommittee Chairman Dwayne Umbarger reported that the budget subcommittee on the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services concurs with the Governor's recommendations in FY 2006 with exceptions and FY 2007 with exceptions.

Senator Teichman moved, with a second by Senator Betts, to adopt the subcommittee budget report for the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services in FY 2006 and FY 2007. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chairman turned the Committee's attention to discussion of:

### **SB 490--Creating the Kansas long-term care bill of rights** **SB 502--Coordinated system for long-term care services**

Senator Emler moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to amend SB 490 to adopt the balloon amendment containing provisions of SB 502 and change the word "elderly" to "older citizens" in the preamble portion of the bill (Attachment 2). Motion carried on a voice vote.

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Senator Teichman moved, with a second by Senator Emler, to amend **SB 490** by striking the word “elderly” and replacing it with “older citizens” throughout the bill. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Teichman moved, with a second by Senator Emler, to amend **SB 490** on page 2, line 25 (b) to add language “nothing in this act shall create any entitlement to services”. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Emler moved, with a second by Senator Kelly, to incorporate all amendments into **Senate Substitute for SB 490** and recommend the bill favorable for passage. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

**SB 553--State historical society; transfer of property to Audubon of Kansas**

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed the following conferees:

Randall Bailes testified in support of **SB 553** on behalf of the Kansas State Historical Society (Attachment 3). Mr. Bailes explained that the bill authorizes the State Historical Society to convey property, commonly known as Mount Mitchell, in rural Wabaunsee County, Kansas, to Audubon of Kansas provided the property neighbors and community have knowledge of and support the property transfer which is further explained in his written testimony.

Clark Balderson, Wamego, Kansas, spoke in support of **SB 553** to help the area preserve and enshrine the Col. William Mitchell legacy and to further the economic independence of their area of rural Kansas (Attachment 4).

Dick Seaton, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Audubon of Kansas, Inc., testified in support of the bill and attached information to his written testimony about the conceptual outline for potential stewardship of the 30-acre Mt. Mitchell property (Attachment 5). He noted that this outline was prepared for members of the Mt. Mitchell Committee. The objectives were to explore ways to continue to preserve the prairie, honor the donors, and make the historical and natural heritage attributes of this property appropriately available for public educational and inspirational purposes.

Michelle Crisler, Wamego, Kansas, spoke in support of the bill. Ms. Crisler explained that their address is on Mt. Mitchell Road and they live in the historic Captain William Mitchell home which is one of the few original documented Underground Railroad Stations in the state (Attachment 6). She provided additional information on the history of the property in her written testimony.

Katie Carlgren, on behalf of the Wabaunsee County Economic Development Council, testified in support of **SB 553** (Attachment 7). Ms. Carlgren explained that the Council recognizes the importance of tourism and historical sites in their area. She noted that they see Mt. Mitchell as an educational opportunity for school children and other visitors to learn about the territorial history of Kansas.

Carol Cook, Historian, Wamego, Kansas, spoke in support of the bill. (No written testimony was provided.) Ms. Cook explained that as an historian, she has researched the underground railroad and Mt. Mitchell is worthy as an historical site. She noted that the site is being well-cared for by the Crisler family and that an access to that area is needed.

Written testimony was submitted by Carol Duffy McDowell, on behalf of the Flint Hills Tallgrass Prairie Heritage foundation (Attachment 8).

There being no further conferees to come before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 553**.

Senator Kelly moved, with a second by Senator Emler, to recommend **SB 553** favorable for passage and be

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placed on the Consent Calendar. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for February 23, 2005.