

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Schwartz at 9:00 A.M. on February 6, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Barbara Ballard - excused  
Representative Jerry Henry - excused  
Representative Harold Lane - excused  
Representative Tom Sawyer - excused  
Representative Jason Watkins - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department  
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department  
Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department  
Cody Gorges, Legislative Research Department  
Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department  
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes  
Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes  
Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Carol Foreman, Department of Administration  
Tod Bunting, Adjutant General  
Tony Folsom, Deputy Director, Division of Property Valuation, Department of Revenue

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Request for introduction of legislation
- Attachment 2 Testimony on **HCR 5030**
- Attachment 3 Testimony on **HCR 5030**
- Attachment 4 Overview of State Disasters and Training Facilities
- Attachment 5 Update on Impact of Machinery and Equipment Tax Exemption

### Introduction of Legislation

Senator Steineger appeared before the Committee to request the introduction of legislation with regard to capitol restoration sales tax exemption (Attachment 1).

Representative Wolf moved to introduce legislation with regard to capitol restoration sales tax exemption. The motion was seconded by Representative Gatewood. Motion carried.

Representative Carlin moved to introduce legislation regarding child advocacy centers. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Schwartz moved to introduce legislation regarding property tax relief. The motion was seconded by Representative Tafanelli. Motion carried.

### Approval of Minutes

Representative Tafanelli moved to approve the minutes of January 23, January 24, January 29 and January 30, as written. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

### Hearing on HCR 5030

**Hearing on HCR 5030 - Concurrent resolution recommending implementation and funding for new classified state employee pay plans, with multi-year market adjustment funding and an implementation oversight board.**

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Appropriations Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 6, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

Representative George explained that **HCR 5030** is legislation brought forth by the Special Committee on State Employee Pay Plan to incorporate the recommendations of the Pay Plan Commission with regard to the development of a new salary structure for state employees (Attachment 2).

Carol Foreman, Department of Administration and Chairperson of the State Employee Compensation Oversight Commission, presented testimony in support of **HCR 5030** (Attachment 3). Ms. Foreman stated that the new pay plan for state employees as proposed by the Commission is supported by state employees, state employee organizations, state agencies, Board of Regents and the legislative, executive and judicial branches of state government.

There were no other proponents or opponents who appeared to testify before the Committee.

### **The hearing on HCR 5030 was closed.**

With the consent of the members, the Committee proceeded with action on **HCR 5030**, Chair Schwartz requested a recommendation from the Committee.

Representative George moved to recommend HCR 5030 favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Holmes. Motion carried.

### **Update on Great Plains Training Center, Disaster Expenditures**

Major General Tod M. Bunting, Adjutant General and Director of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, presented an update on 2007 disasters affecting the State (Attachment 4). These disasters included the winter ice/snow storm on December 31, 2006, which affected 44 counties; the destruction of Greensburg and flooding in northeast Kansas on May 4, 2007, which affected 23 counties; and the winter ice/snow storm of December 10, 2007, which affected 105 counties.

General Bunting explained that additional federal funding is available to the State from the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Funding from this grant is procured through an application process and need not be attached to a declared disaster area. The applicant must show that the funding will not be used for an area which has not been maintained but will make the system stronger.

General Bunting felt that the Great Plains Joint Regional Training Center provides a tremendous resource for trainees from the state as well as outside of the state. The trainees will have access to a wide variety of military training and disaster training at the Salina Airport and Smoky Hill Weapons Range. Building concepts are in the development stage for a crisis city project that will provide training on a variety of potential disasters.

### **Impact of Tax Exemption on Machinery and Equipment**

Tony Folsom, Deputy Director, Division of Property Valuation, Department of Revenue, presented an update of the effects of the 2006 legislation that exempted from property tax all commercial and industrial machinery and equipment, and telecommunications and railroad machinery and equipment (Attachment 5). Mr. Folsom reported that \$25,860,360 has been reimbursed from the state to county governments for any reduction in county revenues as a result of this action by the Legislature.

Mr. Folsom stated that it is a difficult process to forecast future reimbursements to the counties because of the calculation of depreciation on the machinery and equipment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on February 7, 2008.

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Rep. Sharon Schwartz, Chair