

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Vratil at 9:35 A.M. on February 18, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Barbara Allen arrived, 9:39 A.M.
David Haley arrived, 10:15 A.M.
Julia Lynn arrived, 9:40 A.M.
Phil Journey arrived, 9:40 A.M.

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Karen Clowers, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Pat Apple
Mark Gleeson, Office of Judicial Administration
Leslea Rockers, private citizen
Judge Allen Slater, 10th Judicial District

Others attending:

See attached list.

The hearing opened on **SB 545–Health insurance coverage information for children in divorce action.**

Senator Pat Apple testified in support, stating **SB 545** provides language that would allow a judge to order a non-custodial parent that holds the health insurance policy on minor children, sign a HIPPA release so the custodial parent may have access to insurance policy information (Attachment 1).

Mark Gleeson appeared in support, proposing two amendments (Attachment 2). The first amendment concerns technical amendments to K.S.A. 60-1610 to reflect changes in the Kansas Child Support Guidelines. The second amendment suggests striking language in K.S.A. 60-1610(a) pertaining to child support agreements prior to July 1, 1988. If the bill is enacted, this language would be unnecessary.

Leslea Rocker spoke as a proponent, relating her personal experience with an uncooperative ex-spouse regarding health insurance information (Attachment 3). Lack of cooperation by one parent ties the hands of the other parent and may deny children the health care to which they are entitled. Enactment of this bill will eliminate this problem in the future.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 545** was closed.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 546–Family dispute resolution fund, grants, docket fees.**

Judge Allen Slater spoke in support, stating the goal of the bill is to reduce families' dependency on the courts in resolving family related conflicts (Attachment 4). Enactment of the bill will establish a Family Dispute Resolution Fund which would provide grants to local courts to offer programs and services.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 546** was closed.

The Chairman called for final action on **SB 493– State-wide prohibition on smoking in indoor public areas.** Senator Vratil reviewed the bill and distributed a balloon amendment drafted to address several issues brought forth during the hearing on February 13 (Attachment 5).

Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Bruce seconded, to adopt the balloon amendment. Motion carried.

Senator Journey distributed a proposed balloon amendment and reviewed the changes (Attachment 6).

Senator Journey moved, Senator Donovan seconded, to adopt the balloon amendment. Motion failed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M. The next scheduled meeting is February 19, 2008.