

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Renee Erickson at 10:30 am on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, in room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Kristen O'Shea – Excused

Committee staff present:

Charles Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Dylan Dear, Legislative Research Department

Matthew Willis, Legislative Research Department

Sean Marshall, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Trent Armbrust, Kansas Department of Commerce, Office of Innovation

Peter Brady, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Labor

Others in attendance:

No list available

**Informational briefing:**

Trent Armbrust, Chief Strategy Officer, Office of Innovation, Kansas Department of Commerce, provided a briefing on the Office of Innovation. ([Attachment 1](#)) Mr. Armbrust thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak about the office of innovation and the efforts in this area. Mr. Armbrust stated that the power point presentation would reflect what the innovation ecosystem is in Kansas and how Kansas is performing on a national and a regional basis and why the State needs to continue to build on the Innovation ecosystem. Charts were provided that reflected:

- US Angel and Seed Deal Activity
- Venture Capital Deals by Region
- Venture Capital Deal Activity by State
- Venture Capital Deal Activity With Colorado (Number of Deals)
- Venture Capital Deal Activity Without Colorado (Number of Deals)
- Venture Capital Deal Activity by State (\$M)
- Total Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
- SBIR/STTR Awards
- Patent Production

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Rebuilding the Innovation Ecosystem by re-establishing the Department of Commerce and the State of Kansas as participants through Office of Innovation, that they are a trusted partner with someone that people can call and get good information, and the network to get them to the right people. Conclusions on Innovation Ecosystem is to continue building entrepreneurial support to start more businesses, help businesses grow faster. Patent production in Kansas is solid - need to translate invention into commercialization. Ecosystem building takes years to realize results and significant year to year variability can exist.

Office of Innovation : 2022 to facilitate and participate with partners to align efforts to better serve the innovators and entrepreneurs. Venture Capital, Angel and seed capital funds continue to promote and administer programs, highlight and celebrate success. Seek federal and private funding sources supporting innovation and entrepreneurial programing and investment support.

Committee discussion ensued.

**Final action on: HB2703 — Making changes to employment security law provisions regarding the employment security fund and employer contribution rates, the definition of employment to conform with federal law and various updates to the my reemployment plan program, including making the program mandatory with certain exceptions, and providing that the secretary of commerce may require participation by claimants in reemployment services.**

Chairperson Erickson asked the pleasure of the Committee on **HB 2703**.

*Senator Dietrich to pass out **HB 2703** favorably. Senator Holland seconded the motion.* Discussion ensued.

Staff provided an balloon amendment that had changes to the table and and exceptions from mandatory participation by claimants in the My Reemployment Plan by specifying certain categories of exempt claimants. ([Attachment 2](#))

*Senator Dietrich moved the amendment. Senator Holland seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

Peter Brady, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Labor, addressed questions from the Committee.

*Senator Dietrich moved to pass out **HB 2703** favorably as amended. Senator Holland seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

Chairperson Erickson adjourned the meeting at 11:18 am. No further meetings are scheduled for the 2022 Legislative Session.

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Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.