

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 A.M. on February 20, 2006 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Jay Emler- excused

Committee staff present:
Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Kelly Emiston, Senior Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Others attending:
See attached list.

To read testimony submitted by conferees go to
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/government/KansasSenateCommerceCommittee>.

SB 612–Discrimination in employment; victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse; authorizing enforcement and rules and regulations authority for the secretary of labor

SB 501-- Establishment of the Kansas Tourism Corporation

Chairperson Brownlee updated the Committee on the meeting tomorrow; she stated they would be hearing **SB 612** and working **SB 501**.

Chairperson Brownlee also announced to the Committee that Kelly Emiston from the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City is here to give an update on the Kansas economy. She then recognized Mr. Emiston to present his update. Mr. Emiston presented written copy (Attachment 1) which can be found in its entirety on the link listed above. He reviewed the charts and graphs contained in his testimony for the Committee. During his review he stated he wanted to give a telephone number to get assistance with foreclosures, 1.888.995.HOPE, stating this number was a national hotline for free counseling on dealing with a foreclosure. He stated the foreclosure problem is not as bad as it is in some of the other states.

Mr. Emiston had discussion with the Committee at the end of each section of update and upon the conclusion of his presentation the discussion continued. It was noted that the website for the feds is www.kansascityfed.org. The stimulus package was discussed and what impact it will have on Kansas. Mr. Emiston stated the way it is designed, the initial influx of cash will increase sales to some degree in the state. It was noted that Kansas City was the powerhouse of the state four years ago and was growing but now Wichita is the powerhouse because of the aviation industry. The Committee wanted to know what had happened in Kansas City to slow it down. Mr. Emiston stated that he did not feel that Kansas City had slowed but that Wichita has sped up. The Committee also had an interest in the number of foreclosures in the state and a map that Mr. Emiston was referring to during his presentation. Mr. Emiston stated he would leave a copy of the map which shows the foreclosures across the state by counties with the Chair after the meeting. Chairperson Brownlee thanked Mr. Emiston for coming and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with the next meeting scheduled for February 21, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in room 123 S.