

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Carlson at 9:10 a.m. on January 21, 2009, in Room 535-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Gene Rardin, Raj Goyle and Sharon Schwartz.

Committee staff present:

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Scott Wells, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Kathy Beavers, Committee Assistant

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions:

Representative John Faber requested a committee bill introduction that would allow Rawlins County to raise its sales tax in order to construct a swimming pool (Attachment 1). Representative Frownfelter made a motion to support the introduction. Representative Kay Wolf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Mario Goico made a motion to reintroduce 2008 Session **HB 2948** with appropriate updates. Representative George seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Carlson introduced Dr. John Leatherman, Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension Appointment as Local Government Specialist, Director of the Office of Local Government, Kansas State University. Dr. Leatherman introduced his associate, Katie Morris, Extension Assistant. His report examined county government revenue and expenditure patterns over time in Kansas. The objective is to help citizens and state and local policymakers gain a better understanding of the mix and level of services provided by local government in Kansas (Attachment 2). The data is comprised of information from 104 Kansas counties.

Dr. Leatherman felt that generally, Kansas counties are fiscally sound. He hoped that the information he provides, combined with knowledge of the local situation, provides a basis for improving county fiscal management and performance. He stood for questions.

Representative Carlson thanked Dr. Leatherman and his associate for their time and for bringing the information to the attention of the committee. He stated that the counties are highly dependent on property taxes and there are few alternatives to raise monies.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. in Room 535-N..

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M..