

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Melvin Neufeld at 9:00 a.m. on February 10, 2004 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bill Light- excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research
Michele Alishahi, Legislative Research
Melissa Calderwood, Legislative Research
Amy Deckard, Legislative Research
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Administrative Analyst
Shirley Jepson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Henry Helgerson, Senator, State of Kansas
Shelby Smith, former Lieutenant Governor, State of Kansas

Others attending:

See Attached List.

- Attachment 1 Testimony by Shelby Smith, former Lieutenant Governor, State of Kansas
- Attachment 2 Budget recommendations from the Education Budget Committee for the School for the Blind, School for the Deaf, State Library, Kansas Arts Commission and State Historical Society

Representative McCreary moved to introduce legislation concerning unitizing oil leases. The motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

Representation Feuerborn moved to introduce legislation relating to health care policy and partnership. The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

Hearing on HCR 5024 -Constitutional amendment to limit the duration of regular sessions of the Kansas legislature.

The Chair recognized J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department, who explained that the resolution is a constitutional amendment that would limit the duration of the regular session of the Kansas Legislature, removing the existing limit of ninety days in even-numbered years. It places an eighty-eight days limit on the length of the regular session. It also would eliminate the two-thirds vote needed to extend the session, allowing in its place, a vote approved by a majority, to extend the session by a maximum of two days. In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Scott stated that this bill does not apply to special sessions of the Legislature. The cost of a fully-staffed legislative day is approximately \$55,000.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Representative Pottorff, who presented comments in support of **HCR 5024**. Representative Pottorff felt that shortening the number of days of the legislative session would make the legislature more efficient and save additional money.

The Chair recognized Senator Henry Helgerson, who presented comments in support of **HCR 5024** stating that the Legislature works best when it has structure. Senator Helgerson recommended separating the discussion of session length and legislator's salaries. The Senator also recommended changing the format by receiving the Governor's budget recommendations at an earlier date in the session in order for work to begin on the budget sooner than is now possible. During the question segment, the Committee voiced concern about

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE at 9:00 a.m. on February 10, 2004 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

legislators' obligation to the citizens of Kansas, allowing citizens to have more input in the legislative process. The Committee also voiced concern about exempt committees being allowed to introduce legislation at any date during the session which sometimes has led to not working proposed legislation until late in the session. In response to another question, the Senator stated that he did not know the cost of putting the constitutional amendment on the ballot.

The Chair recognized Shelby Smith, former Lieutenant Governor of Kansas, who presented written testimony in support of **HCR 5024** (Attachment 1). Responding to a question from the Committee with regard to statistical information statements contained in the presentation, Mr. Smith indicated that the information he presented was his opinion only. Mr. Smith noted that the resolution would have no effect on interim meetings. Mr. Smith also noted that he felt a special session should be limited specifically to the issue which initiated the call for the special session..

Chairman Neufeld closed the hearing on **HCR 5024**.

Representative Feuerborn, member of the House Education Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for the School for the Blind for FY 2004 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2004(Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Huebert. Motion carried.

Representative Feuerborn, member of the House Education Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for the School for the Blind for FY 2005 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation with notations for FY 2005 (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Shultz. Motion carried.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Representative Feuerborn stated that a 3% salary increase for teachers was included in the Governor's budget recommendation. With regard to the Budget Committee notation on the disparity between teachers salaries, Representative Feuerborn stated that the amount needed to correct this disparity, would be approximately \$300,000 total for the School for the Blind and the School for the Deaf. The Budget Committee has requested more information on this disparity. Representative Feuerborn did not have an estimate on the cost of the services provided to other school districts by the School for the Blind.

Representative Feuerborn, member of the House Education Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for the School for the Deaf for FY 2004 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2004 (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Shultz. Motion carried.

Representative Feuerborn, member of the House Education Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for the School for the Deaf for FY 2005 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation with notations for FY 2005 (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Huebert. Motion carried.

Representative Shultz, Chair of the House Education Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for the State Library for FY 2004 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation for FY 2004 (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Shultz, Chair of the House Education Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendation for the State Library for FY 2005 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation with notation for FY 2005 (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative McLeland, member of the House Education Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Kansas Arts Commission for FY 2004 and FY 2005 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2004 and FY 2005 (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Huebert.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE at 9:00 a.m. on February 10, 2004 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

The Committee voiced concern about the \$35,000 reduction in state aid to local government as recommended in the Governor's budget. The Budget Committee indicated that they did not have discussion on this aspect of the budget.

Representative Shriver moved to amend the Budget Committee report by restoring the \$35,000 reduction in state aid to local government in the Governor's budget recommendation to the Kansas Arts Commission for FY 2005. The motion was seconded by Representative Klein. Motion carried.

Representative McLeland moved to renew the motion to adopt the Budget Committee recommendations on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Kansas Arts Commission for FY 2004 as presented and FY 2005 as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Huebert, member of the House Education Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the State Historical Society for FY 2004 and FY 2005 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2004 and FY 2005 (Attachment 2). Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 9:00 a.m. on February 11, 2004.

Melvin Neufeld, Chair