

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Edmonds at 9:00 a.m. on March 12, 2003 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Vaughn Flora
Representative Jeff Jack

Committee staff present:

Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Carol Doel, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director for
Advocacy for Kansas Association of School Boards
Karl Peterjohn, Kansas Taxpayers Network
Joan Wagnon, Acting Secretary of Revenue
David Patton, Chairman of BOTA

Others attending:

See Attached Sheet

Chairman Edmonds requested any bill introductions. Hearing none, he opened the meeting for public hearings on **HB 2066** and **SB 162** with Chris Courtwright from Legislative Research giving an overview of the bills. Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy for Kansas Association of School Boards was first to address the committee as a proponent of both bills. Mr. Tallman explained that passage of these bills would extend the statewide school district mill levy through 2003-04 and 2004-05 at the current level of 20 mills, with the current \$20,000 residential exemption. If this levy is not extended, or is reduced, it will make the current budget crisis facing Kansas much worse. They believe additional revenue must be raised to fund education adequately, as well as address other important state needs. (Attachment 1) Also included with Mr. Tallman's testimony was an article *The Cost of Quality* (Attachment 2) and *Kansas Education Shines* (Attachment 3)

Karl Peterjohn rose to address the committee in opposition to **HB 2066** and **SB 162**. Mr. Peterjohn stated that Kansas spends more per pupil than surround states and that in the pupil/teacher ratio Kansas tied for second place and that high school completion placed third. (No written testimony) Mr. Peterjohn showed a booklet to the committee entitled *50 STATE COMPARISONS* giving taxation, economic, demographic, government and education information. (This booklet was published by Taxpayers Network, Inc. W67 N222 Evergreen Blvd #202 Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012)

Chairman Edmonds requested that Mr. Peterjohn obtain a copy of this booklet for each member of the committee.

With no other person wishing to address the bill, Chairman Edmonds closed the hearing on **HB 2066** and **SB 162**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Hearing on **HB 2147** was opened for hearing with Acting Secretary of the Internal Revenue, Joan Wagnon, appearing as a proponent. This bill proposes to reduce the number of members of the Board of Tax Appeals from 5 to 3. Ms. Wagnon also requested that **HB 2147** be amended as explained in the attached balloon amendments, so that **HB 2147** will be consistent with **SB 115**, as it passed the Senate, and as they suggested that **SB 115** be amended by the House Appropriations Committee. (Attachment 4)

Next to appear as a proponent for **HB 2147** was David Patton, Chairman of BOTA (Board of Tax Appeals) Mr. Patton was appearing on his own behalf and not on behalf of BOTA. Mr. Patton's testimony covered decreasing Board from five to three members, qualifications, and filing fees. (Attachment 5) He also included a chart showing open cases (Attachment 6) as well as BTA Workload Measures Report (Attachment 7), and Small Claims' Workload Measures Report for March 1, 2003. (Attachment 8)

With no one further wishing to address the bill, Chairman Edmonds closed the hearing on **HB 2147**.

HB 2236 was scheduled to be heard, however, time did not permit, and Chairman Edmonds announced that this bill would be scheduled at later date.

The Chairman called attention to written testimonies submitted regarding **HB 2421** which was heard on Monday, March 10th and Tuesday, March 11th. These testimonies were from Adecco (Attachment 9) and Kansas Board of Regents (Attachment 10). Also submitted by legislative counsel, Ron Hein, was testimony from Mental Health Credentialing Coalition (Attachment 11), Heart of America Staffing Services Association (Attachment 12), Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association (Attachment 13), and National Kidney Foundation of Kansas and Western Missouri (Attachment 14).

Representative Huntington called to the attention of the committee an article published in the Kansas City Star on February 4, 2003 entitled *TAXES: Outdated Systems Cited in New Study*.

With no further business before the committee, Chairman Edmonds adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.