

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael R. O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. on January 25, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tony Powell - excused

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Legislative Research Department

Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Cindy O'Neal, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Paul Davis, Kansas Bar Association

Greg Debacker, National Congress for Men & Children

Hearings on **HB 2488 - enacting the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction & Enforcement Act**, were opened.

Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes, explained that the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (UCCJA) hasn't been revised since it was enacted in 1979. She covered the differences between **HB 2488 & SB 382**. **SB 382** would make the following changes in the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act:

- < Would make clear that the home state jurisdiction trumps all others;
- < Makes it clear that emergency orders are temporary orders;
- < Provides that the state continues jurisdiction as long as one parent continues to live in that state;
- < Provides a record of communication between the courts
- < and, awards fees and costs against the non-prevailing party

To date 14 states have enacted the revisions, with nine others introducing bills addressing the proposed changes.

Paul Davis, Kansas Bar Association, appeared on behalf of Ron Nelson. He stated that the Bar Association supports the revisions proposed in **SB 382** so the laws would be uniform across the United States. (Attachment 1)

Greg Debacker, National Congress for Men & Children, commented that parents rights are not only a State issue but an International issue, due to the child who is in the United States while his father remains in Cuba. He proposed amendments to **HB 2488**. (Attachment 2)

The Chairman announced that the committee would not be working **HB 2488** but would wait until **SB 328** arrived in the committee and would work the senate bill.

Hearings on **HB 2488** were closed.

The committee meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2000.