

Approved: 03/30/12

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lana Gordon at 3:30 on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 in room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Eunice Peters-Revisor
Reagan Cussimano-KLRD
Jason Long-KLRD
Edw. Balda- Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Proponents:
Representative Joseph Scapa
Dr. Walter Chappell-

Others in attendance: see attached list

HB 2645 Personal financial literacy program as a requirement for high school graduation.
SB 261 Kansas private and out-of-state post-secondary educational institution act; fees and removal of expiration date.

Chairman Gordon opened the Committee with greetings and asked Eunice Peters to review **HB-2645** for the members. Representative Cassidy asked why the Committee was hearing this bill for the second time, and that it had already gone to the Senate. Chairman Gordon replied that it had just been given to us and had not passed out of the Senate.

The Committee welcomed Representative Joseph Scapa to the podium where he presented his testimony (Attachment 1). He added information regarding the importance of teaching high school students so they are able to make intelligent financial decisions. In particular, he addressed his four major points of said attachment. Representative Feuerborn asked how many high school credits were currently required to graduate. The amount of twenty-one credits was given as the answer. Representative Cassidy inquired as to how many schools across the state were already teaching this course. The answer was unknown at this time. He further urged the

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need for this credit as to the successful future living of these students. Mention was made that this course credit could perhaps also be included as a math credit.

Dr. Walt Chappell addressed the Committee about his testimony ([Attachment 2](#)). He suggested that perhaps 14% of Kansas schools were requiring this course, and that usage was inconsistent across the state. He stressed the success of this course requirement in those few schools using it. States that his objective is to make sure every student in Kansas has access to this program. Representative Spalding asked why the Kansas State Board of Education has not acted on this issue. Dr. Chappell stated that from his experience it would appear that the Board has consistently left these matters up to the Legislature. Similar situations regarding, Autism, bullying and others have followed this suit. Representative Spalding also inquired as to whether this program might also work on the middle school level. He personally believes it would be more effective at the high school level, but that it would still do a lot of good at the lower level, only simplified. Representative Feuerborn asked where the need for twenty-one graduating credits really comes from. It comes from the Kansas Board of Education.

Diane Gjerstad presented neutral testimony ([Attachment 3](#)) and reviewed her information. She also noted that there are many concepts of money that are trying to be introduced into the grade school levels in several schools in Wichita. She cited ten teachers and their success with this. Representative Arpke asked details of their program and if she would be willing to share their approach with other schools. Representative Cassidy commented that he has seen this type of class placed into the lower level parts of curriculum. He is still very curious as to how many schools are not teaching this class.

Attention was given to the written testimonies of other proponents.

Opponent Mark Tallman gave testimony ([Attachment 4](#)). The KASB agree with the bill proper, but would prefer that it be presented differently. Representative Arpke asked what has really been done with this type of course over the past years. He wonders just how long it takes for the knowledge of this class to actually be effective. He also cited the success of his two children and their ability to earn money at early ages.

Opponent Mark Desetti reviewed his testimony ([Attachment 5](#)) and discussed topics of financial literacy. He likewise gave examples of his children earning money. Representative Arpke asked questions concerning the American student's knowledge of finances versus the foreign students.

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Representative Arpke went on to discuss the strengths of many foreign students and their obvious differences in educational programs. Representative O'Brien asks if all school districts had the same basic curriculum.

Written testimony was presented for the following:

Haley DaVee-Kansas Credit Union Assn ([Attachment 6](#)).

Edwin Splichal-Office of the State Bank Commissioner ([Attachment 7](#)).

Aaron Jack – Office of the Securities Commissioner ([Attachment 8](#)).

Kathleen Taylor-Kansas Bankers Association ([Attachment 9](#)).

Anita Kroeker-Nickerson H.S. Business teacher ([Attachment 10](#)).

There were no further questions or discussion and the Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2645**.

Chairman Gordon then asked the members to direct their attention to **SB 261**.

Representative Aurand made a motion to sunset the bill to June 30, 2017. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn, there was no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion carried. Representative Aurand then made motion to pass out the bill to the Senate. This motion was seconded by Representative Cassidy, there was no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Chairman Gordon briefly mentioned that the next week would have several bills to be worked. She then adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:30.

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