

Approved: May 22, 2012
(Date)

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. on January 31, 2012, in Room 548-S of the Capitol. All members were present, except Senator Bruce who was excused.

Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Bob Allison-Gallimore, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Lauren Douglass, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Curt Brungardt, Ph. D.
Michael Kaberline
Steve Halley
Dorthy Stucky Halley, Director of Victim Services Division, Office of Attorney General
Travis Harrod, Assistant Attorney General
Sky Westerlund, Executive Director of Kansas Chapter of National Association of Social Workers
Tom Hawk, Executive Director Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
Mark Gleeson, Office of Judicial Administration

Others Attending:

See Attached List

The Chairman recognized Brad Smoot who requested introduction of a bill concerning prejudgment interest rates.

The Chairman opened the hearings on **SB 304–Certified batterer intervention program act**.

Jason Thompson, Staff Revisor, reviewed the bill. Mr. Thompson stated the bill concerns batterer intervention programs and certification thereof.

Dr. Curt Brungardt, Ph. D. testified in support of **SB 304 (Attachment 1)**. Dr. Brungardt stated certification is necessary for positive outcomes of batterer intervention programs.

Michael Kaberline testified in support of **SB 304 (Attachment 2)**. Mr. Kaberline stated he participated in the Family Peace Initiative, which is offered by the Topeka YWCA and has been violence-free for two years. He stated that anger management does not help batterers.

Steve Halley testified in support of **SB 304 (Attachment 3)**. Mr. Halley stated that batterers use a pattern of domination and control. He added it is not enough to send persons convicted of domestic violence to counseling, anger management, or subject them to fines.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Judiciary Committee at 9:35 a.m. on January 31, 2012, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

Dorothy Stucky Halley testified in support of **SB 304** (Attachment 4). Ms. Halley stated if programs are not certified, substandard programs are able to thrive. She added that persons who perform assessments and provide intervention services must have specialized training in batterer intervention.

Travis Harrod testified in support of **SB 304** (Attachment 5). Mr. Harrod stated the bill would authorize the Attorney General to adopt rules and regulations for the purpose of certification and regulation of batterer intervention programs in Kansas. Statewide certification of such programs will ensure that victims of domestic violence and offenders referred to such programs will receive the same level of intervention and service, no matter where they live in Kansas.

Written testimony in support of **SB 304** was submitted by Dennis Butler and Joyce Grover (Attachments 6 and 7).

Sky Westerlund testified in opposition to **SB 304** (Attachment 8). Ms. Westerlund stated KNASW believes the criteria for certification should focus on program elements such as assessment content, program standards reporting procedures, which **SB 304** does not. She also stated that **SB 304** does not provide the foundation of who shall implement the program. She added that implementation should start with staff who are licensed to practice behavioral sciences. Ms. Westerlund's testimony included a copy of a proposed amendment.

Tom Hawk offered neutral testimony on **SB 304** (Attachment 9). He expressed concerns about the provisions in subsection (c) on page 1 of the bill relating to providing records.

Mark Gleeson offered neutral testimony on **SB 304** (Attachment 10). He stated the bill could potentially create additional work for the clerks of the district and additional programming costs. His testimony included an amendment that would avoid the additional work and cost.

The Chairman closed the hearings on **SB 304**.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.