

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenny Wilk at 9:00 a.m. on January 10 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Phil Kline
 Representative John Toplikar

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research
 Robert Chapman, Legislative Research
 Rae Anne Davis, Legislative Research
 Julian Efrid, Legislative Research
 Debra Hollon, Legislative Research
 Amy Kramer, Legislative Research
 Stuart Little, Legislative Research
 Amory Lovin, Legislative Research
 Audrey Nogle, Legislative Research
 Leah Robinson, Legislative Research
 Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
 Paul West, Legislative Research
 Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
 Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
 Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Bobbi Mariani, Director, Kansas Division of Personnel Services,
 Department of Administration

Others attending: See Attached

Chairman Wilk welcomed Committee members and asked for introduction of staff from Research, the Office of Revisor of Statutes, and House Appropriations. Budget Committee Chairpersons Neufeld, Schwartz, Shultz, Peterson, and Pottorff were also introduced. It was noted that Representative Kline would be Chairman of the Public Safety Budget Committee but was unable to be in attendance.

Representative Neufeld moved for the introduction of legislation at the request of the Joint Committee Rules and Regulations Committee regarding the filing of certain publications with the Secretary of State. Motion seconded by Representative Stone. Motion carried.

Representative Neufeld moved for the introduction of legislation regarding school finance in communities in which community colleges exist. The motion was seconded by Representative Pottorff. Motion carried.

Representative Neufeld requested introduction of the Governor's budget in three appropriation bills: An FY 2001 supplemental bill, and an FY 2002 appropriations bill with biennially budgeted agencies and FY 2003 appropriations, and a capitol improvements bill. Motion was seconded by Representative Pottorff. Motion carried.

Bobbi Mariani, Director, Division of Personnel Services, Department of Administration, presented highlights from the State of Kansas Workforce Report 2000 (Attachment 1 on file in Appropriations Office) (Attachment 2) Average salaries, age of employees, aging trends of employees, and the problems of low entry wages were addressed by Director Mariani. Reference was made to the Governor's recommendation of eliminating the first three steps of every pay grade as a measure to increase entry level salaries in FY 2001 (Attachment 3). This will allow for faster movement through the steps, thus increasing employees' salaries at a faster rate than currently exists. This is proposed as an incentive for employee recruits as well as longevity bonus payments. Currently 63% of new state employees leave within the first five years of service. More detailed exit interviews are being planned in an attempt to ascertain exact reasons for state employees leaving state employment. Under the Governor's plan there would be no step movement in FY 2002. There will be a definite fiscal impact because one-fourth of all state employees are on the first three steps. The Committee expressed concern regarding the hiring of 18 year olds as prison guards at Lansing. Director Mariani assured them there were exacting standards for the hiring of such guards. This hiring has been authorized only at the Lansing Correctional Facility as a test case due to the extreme shortage of applicants and the large number of vacancies.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2001.

