

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Kenny Wilk at 9:00 a.m. on March 13, 2002, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Newton, Excused

Committee staff present: Amy Kramer, Legislative Research  
Alan Conroy, Legislative Research  
Audrey Nogle, Legislative Research  
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research  
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes  
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes  
Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Secretary

Conferees: Ray Dalton, SRS  
Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary of Agriculture  
Claire Hontizky, Kansas Rural Center

Others attending: See Attached

Representative Feuerborn moved for the introduction of legislation regarding the employment security law (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Campbell. Motion carried.

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research, distributed copies of the State General Fund unencumbered cash balance (Attachment 2). The current balance will withstand the next payroll and with some incoming revenue, the following payroll. Dale Dennis, Department of Education, reported that school payments have been from three to seven days late in being sent to the districts.

Chairman Wilk requested a cash flow analysis, a memo from the school finance estimating consensus group, and a list of the anticipated additional needs for FY 2002 and FY 2003.

**Hearing on SB 618—State institutions building fund, revenue bond debt service for capital improvements of the department of social and rehabilitation services**

Ray Dalton, Health Care Policy, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), explained that the bill would authorize the legislature to appropriate State Institutions Building Fund (SIBF) money to SRS to pay out the debt service on the bonds issued for the construction of the new State Security Hospital (Attachment 3). SRS has met with the Joint Committee on State Building Construction and SIBF funds can be used for debt service for SRS, Juvenile Justice Authority, Kansas State School for the Blind, Kansas State School for the Deaf, and Kansas Commission for Veterans' Affairs. This bill would permit bond debt service for a capitol improvement project from the SIBF.

Chairman Wilk closed the hearing on **SB 618**.

**Hearing on SB 604—Appropriations for FY 2003 for WIC farmer's market nutrition program for department of health and environment**

Jamie Clover Adams, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, testified in support of the program which would benefit both consumer and supplier (Attachment 4). Secretary Adams reported that she is contacting bankers and chain groceries to request that such establishments waive the administration fee for food vouchers used in farmer's markets. The reasoning is that if clients become accustomed to fresh fruits and vegetables during the growing season of a farmer's market, they will continue with the purchases during the off-season at the grocery store. Participation in the program would require a \$30,000 match from the state.

The Committee discussed the possible combination of the proposed WIC Farmers Market Nutrition program with the Senior Assistance program which does not require a federal match. This has been a successful pairing in Nebraska.

Claire Homitzky, Kansas Rural Center, explained that the funds would not be released until the federal money arrives (Attachment 5). There is concern that this may be cut from the presidential budget. Vouchers for use in the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition program would be in \$2 increments. The farmers would cash the vouchers at a participating bank or grocery store.

The Committee discussed the possibility of combining the WIC and food stamp programs. There have been problems with clients attempting to exchange formula purchased through the WIC program for cash refunds. The stamping for identification purposes products purchased through food stamps and WIC was discussed.

Chairman Wilk closed the hearing on **SB 604**.

Representative Shultz, Chairperson of the Educational Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Education for FY 2002 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2002 with exceptions (Attachment 6). Motion was seconded by Representative Light. Motion carried.

Representative Shultz, Chairperson of the Educational Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on the Governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Education for FY 2003 and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendations for FY 2003 with exceptions (Attachment 6). Motion was seconded by Representative Light.

The Educational Budget Committee consensus was that they were all dissatisfied with the budget report and recommendations, but they worked with the confines of the revenue available at this time.

Representative Nichols made a substitute motion to adopt the Minority Report for the Education Budget Committee report for the Department of Education for FY 2003. Motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn.

The Committee discussed the option of filing both the Majority and Minority reports for the Education Budget Committee for the State Department of Education for FY 2003 as the Majority report only notes certain issues and the Minority report has explanatory language.

Representative Nichols withdrew his motion with the permission of the second, Representative Feuerborn.

Representative Nichols moved to amend the Education Budget Committee report for the Department of Education for FY 2003 by combining the Minority Report and the Majority Report into one document. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion failed.

During discussion on the state-supported Parents as Teachers program, it was pointed out that it is not the state's responsibility to offer free educational programs for those who can afford the cost of the program. Many of these educational programs were developed for the benefit of all economic levels of society and would it be sending a negative message to the schools if the state provided the programs free for those who could not afford the program and made the more affluent pay for the program. Questions discussed were: Would this ultimately develop into a state-wide program whereby the state paid for all the low income families, thus the school districts would not have to supply the 65 percent match money? What is the actual purpose of the program? Are private funds available for the funding match at the local level? Is this an issue for local school boards to decide whether they wanted to participate or not?

Representative Bethell moved to amend the Education Budget Committee report for the Department of Education for FY 2003 by requesting that the benefits of the Parents as Teachers program and possibility of means testing on the participating families be carefully examined at Omnibus. Motion was seconded by Representative Toplikar. Motion carried on a 10-8 vote.

Representative Shultz renewed his motion to adopt the Budget Committee report for the Department of Education for FY 2003 with exceptions and as amended (Attachment 6). Motion was seconded by Representative Light. Motion carried. Representatives Campbell and Newton asked to be recorded as "no" votes.

Representative Shultz thanked the Department of Education for their willing participation in the development of the budget and their acknowledgment of the fiscal shortfalls the state is experiencing. He expressed his dissatisfaction and disappointment in the product, but re-emphasized that they had been forced to work within

the confines of the existing revenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2002.

## CONTINUATION SHEET