

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:37 p.m. on March 5, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Downey (excused)

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ben Barrett, Director, Legislative Research Department
Craig Grant, KNEA
Mark Tallman, KASB
Representative Robert Tomlinson
Natalie Haag, Chief Legal Counsel, Director Governmental
Affairs
Trudy Racine, Director of Policy, SRS

Others attending: See Attached List

SB124--Kansas council on school district finance and quality performance
SB134--School district finance, professional evaluation

Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department, gave a briefing on **SB124** and **SB134**. Both bills were recommended by the Governor's Task Force. **SB124** creates the 17 member Kansas Council on School District Finance Quality Performance. **SB134** calls for a study of school district finance to deal with the matter of per pupil cost of a suitable education. The Governor has put money in the budget for school finance study but the type of study in the Governor's proposal was a little different from what is in **SB134**.

Craig Grant, KNEA, gave testimony in favor of **SB124** and **SB134**. (Attachment 1)

The Committee thought it might be a good idea to sunset this bill after five years to see if the school finance council justifies the money that it takes to support it and to see if it has been helpful to the Legislature. The task force felt that the Legislature often responds to crisis situations in dealing with the school finance formula and that it tends to take a short term view rather than a long term view. The task force believed that the school finance council could take a longer term view of things and perhaps see the big picture better than the Legislature. It would be helpful to have recommendations each year from a group as to what changes in the school finance formula might be appropriate with a long term view in mind. The task force felt very strongly that an adequacy study was needed; that was the number one recommendation of the task force. Funds were put in the budget for an adequacy study.

SB124 indicates the school finance council would monitor the quality performance accreditation system. This duty was never intended for the school finance council.

Senator Schodorf made a motion to remove the words "and the quality performance accreditation system" from SB124, page 2, line 22. Seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried.

Senator Teichman made a motion to put a sunset provision in SB124 for five years. It was discussed that the term "sunset" is no longer used and that putting a date in the bill would serve the purpose. Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes, will put in a new subsection following Line 18. "Provision of section shall expire 6-30-2006". Seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried.

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Senator Oleen made a motion to add the statute and the expiration date in **SB124**, Page 3, Line 6. Seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried.

Senator Vratil made a motion to report **SB124** as amended favorably for passage. Senator Schodorf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion on **SB134** consisted of further explanation of a "suitable" education. The process of obtaining an evaluation of school district finance was discussed and exactly what information the adequacy study is expected to produce.

Senator Vratil made a motion to report **SB134** favorably for passage. Seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion carried.

SB167--School safety violations, suspension of driving privileges, repeal

HB2155--School safety, definition of weapon revised

HB2289--School safety, suspension of driving privileges of pupils for commission of certain acts

Mark Tallman offered testimony in support of **SB167**, **HB2155** and **HB2289**. (Attachment 2) Mark stated in his testimony that the schools are prohibited from providing records of student discipline under the Federal Family Educational Records Privacy Act without parental permission. In discussion, Mark clarified that there is an exception in the law for the student's name to be reported to law enforcement, but the school cannot report that name to the Motor Vehicle Department.

Representative Robert Tomlinson gave testimony in support of **HB2155**. (Attachment 3) After an incident in his local school district, it was discovered that electronic weapons were not in the definition of weapons in the law. This bill will add electronic weapons to the definition.

Natalie Haag, Chief Legal Counsel, Director of Governmental Affairs, gave testimony in support of **HB2289** with several recommended amendments. (Attachment 4) The Committee accepted the testimony presented and stated that they would need to study the recommendations and have final action at a later date.

HB2094--School districts; definition of juvenile detention facility for services and state grants

Trudy Racine, Director of Policy, SRS gave testimony in support of **HB2094**. (Attachment 5)

Dick Kelsey, President of Kings Achievement Center, gave a quick overview of Kings Achievement Center in support of **HB2094**.

Richard Kline, Juvenile Justice Authority, (JJA) fielded questions. The Committee requested a firm answer on the list of facilities open now and opening in the near future so that all facilities will be listed on the bill and any that are no longer open can be deleted from the bill. The Committee also requested that they receive a report on how and when the local schools are notified of new facilities opening in their districts.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2001 at the regular time.