

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 11:20 A.M. on March 23, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes Office
Michael Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Judy Bromich, Chief of Staff
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Sharon Schwartz
Ralph Richardson, Dean, Kansas State University Veterinary Medical School
Janice Harper, Comptroller, Adjutant General's Department

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger opened the public hearing on:

HB 3005--Establishing the veterinary training program for rural Kansas

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed the following conferees:

Representative Sharon Schwartz, testified in support of **HB 3005 (Attachment 1)**. Representative Schwartz added in addition to her testimony that in the House of Representatives hearings on the bill, two students testified about wanting to return to the rural community after veterinary training. She also noted that there are aging veterinarians in rural areas. In her testimony, Representative Schwartz explained that because of the overwhelming increases in the cost to obtain their degree and to establish a large animal practice, it was impossible for young veterinarians to return to communities in rural Kansas. In closing Representative Schwartz urged support of the bill to establish a program to provide incentives for students to return to rural Kansas to practice upon graduation.

Ralph Richardson, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University, testified in support of **HB 3005 (Attachment 2)**. Dean Richardson explained that the American Veterinary Medical Association projects that at the present there is a shortage of 1,500 veterinarians in public health areas, which includes various areas listed in his written testimony. He mentioned that risk inherent in animal agriculture has escalated dramatically in recent years due to the potential for accidental or intentional introduction of exotic diseases into food animal populations. He noted that veterinarians compose the first line of defense against it and detailed the example of West Nile Virus and its detection in the United States. Dean Richardson explained that his only concern that should be considered with the bill as currently written has to do with the 10-year commitment to one location following graduation in that it might dissuade students from applying because the post-graduation commitment is so long and noted that a 4-5 year commitment would be better received.

There being no further conferees to appear before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 11:20 A.M. on March 23, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

HB 3005.

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

HB 2967--Reimbursement of political subdivisions for health insurance of employees on state active duty in the national guard

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed Janice Harper, Comptroller, Adjutant General's Department, who spoke in favor of **HB 2967** (Attachment 3). Ms. Harper explained that the proposed legislation is a technical correction. The bill eliminates the language indicating that the Director of Accounts and Reports, upon receiving proper certification, will transfer State General Funds to a political subdivision of the state which employs a Kansas National Guard member for health insurance for Guard personnel who are on state active duty in excess of 30 days. Ms. Harper noted that since the Director of Accounts and Reports does not have funds to transfer to other agencies, the bill is needed to change the statute to allow for the Finance Council to provide the funds for this purpose.

There being no further conferees to appear before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **HB 2967.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for March 30, 2006.