

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 A.M. on March 8, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Benjamin Hodge- absent

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Ann Mah
George Fahnestock, Chairman, Technical Education Commission
Dr. Reggie Robinson, Pres - CEO, KS Board of Regents
Joe Glassman, Commissioner, Technical Education Commission
Rich Hoffman, Director, Kaw Area Technical School
Clark Coco, President, North Central Kansas Technical College
Dan Welch, BRB Construction (no testimony provided)
Corey Peterson, Associated General Contractors
Mark Schrieber, Westar Energy (written testimony only)

HB 2556: Postsecondary technical education authority.

Theresa Kiernan provided Committee members with an overview of **HB 2556**. (Attachment #1) Also included was an informal opinion provided by the Kansas Office of the Attorney General. (Attachment #2)

Sharon Wenger gave an overview of the establishment of the Kansas Technical College and Vocational School Commission.

Representative Mah told Committee members that **HB 2556** aligns technical standards and curricula statewide. It establishes the postsecondary technical education authority under the auspice of the Kansas Board of Regents to be the point of contact for industry and the body to ensure that technical education is meeting the needs of industry and Kansans and provides the delivery of technical education from high school to postsecondary institutions to industry. (Attachment #3)

George Fahnestock spoke to Committee members in support of **HB 2556** and having reviewed a wide range of information, the members of the Commission agree that, to improve technical education in Kansas, a consistent statewide governance system, an adequate and equitable funding mechanism, and a standardized curriculum are needed. The Commission also feels that technical education should be viewed more as an economic development tool that is focused on meeting the needs of business and industry in the state. (Attachment - #4)

Dr. Reginald Robinson spoke to the Committee members as a proponent of **HB 2556**. (Attachment #5)

Dr. Jackie Vietti spoke to the Committee members as a proponent of **HB 2556**. (Attachment #6)

Joe Glassman spoke to the Committee members of the importance of technically trained people in Kansas and spoke in support of **HB 2556**. (Attachment #7)

Richard Hoffman spoke of the support with the intent of **HB 2556** and the need for better advocacy on behalf of technical education. (Attachment #8)

Clark Coco told Committee members that **HB 2556** relates to previous and future funding and allocations for

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technical education, statewide leadership for technical education and the development of new economic opportunities for the State of Kansas through the expansion of offerings at all institutions delivering technical education. (Attachment #9)

Dan Welch spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **HB 2556** and advised of Kansas companies which are in need of young people for construction jobs. (No testimony furnished)

Corey Peterson told Committee members that Kansas desperately needs a coordinated, well funded, technical education system that is responsive to the industries that will eventually be provided jobs to the students graduating from these programs and supported **HB 2556**. (Attachment #10)

Written testimony was received from Westar Energy in support of **HB 2556**. (Attachment #11)

After a question and answer session, the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2556**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2007.