

Approved: May 7, 2008
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:30 A.M. on February 6, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Greta Goodwin - excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Kristen Clarke Kellems, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Kimbra Caywood McCarthy, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joe Connor, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
Helen Pedigo, Executive Director, Kansas Sentencing Commission
Barry Downing, Representing the Wichita and Kansas City Business Coalitions for Early Education
Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to conceptually introduce a bill concerning tiny-K networks for the School for the Deaf. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Wysong moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to conceptually introduce a bill concerning the Massage Therapy Licensure Act. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chairman recognized Judy Moler, Kansas Association of Counties, who introduced Joe Conner, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments and Vice President, Kansas Association of Counties, who requested introduction of a bill that would increase the Maternal and Child Health funding by \$1.5 million (Attachment 1). Senator Steineger moved, with a second by Senator Kelly, to conceptually introduce the bill. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Helen Pedigo, Executive Director, Kansas Sentencing Commission, who provided an overview of the Juvenile Correctional Facility Population Projections (Attachment 2) and the Adult Inmate Prison Population Projections (Attachment 3). Ms. Pedigo addressed juvenile and adult population projections, admission characteristics, population characteristics and population trends.

The Chairman welcomed Barry Downing, who was representing the Wichita and Kansas City Business Coalitions for Early Education (Attachment 4). Mr. Downing mentioned that, as representing business and community leaders, they are interested in having better educated and productive employees so that they can effectively compete in the new world economy. In reference to Wichita, Mr. Downing explained the TOP Learning Centers public/private partnership where they have experienced first-hand the impact that high quality early education can have on young children.

On behalf of the Wichita and Kansas City Coalitions for Early Education he respectfully asked for support of the proposed funding for early childhood grants and the Kansas Preschool Program which are before the Legislature this session.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:30 A.M. on February 6, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

The Chairman welcomed Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections, who presented an overview of the Agency (Attachment 5). In response to a question, the Secretary mentioned that there are 8,553 male beds in the prison system. Secretary Werholtz addressed the information on page 4 of his testimony where the monthly revocation numbers of people under parole are listed. He noted this is a reduction from FY 2003. Page 5 of his testimony lists a snapshot of absconding parolees. Secretary Werholtz explained that in 1996-1999 which were the first four years compared to years 2003-2007, the average is 500 down to 360.

Secretary Werholtz noted that on page 6, Components of the End-of-Month Population Under Post-incarceration Management, which is the current fiscal year, the numbers continue to decline which he attributed to the aggressive use of enforcement officers and parole staff - fewer people abscond. Page 8 indicates the total number of convictions.

Due to time constraints, the Chairman invited Secretary Werholtz back to a future meeting for further discussion and questions. The Chairman announced that there would not be a meeting of Senate Ways and Means on Friday, February 8, 2008, so that the subcommittees would have an opportunity to meet.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for February 7, 2008.