

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Peggy Mast at 1:30 P.M. on March 14, 2007 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Tom Holland
Clark Shultz

Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Revisor's Office
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor's Office
Melissa Calderwood, Legislative Research
Mary Galligan, Legislative Research
Patti Magathan, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Pam Scott, KS Funeral Directors & Embalmers Association
Mack Smith, KS Board of Mortuary Arts
Dr. Howard Rodenberg, Kansas Department of Health & Environment

Others Attending:

See Attached List.

Representative Colyer introduced the presenter on health reform issues, **Michael Bond**, Director of the Center for Health Care Policy, Cleveland, OH.

Mr. Bond said that 2/3 of the currently uninsured people live at or below the poverty level. He presented a possible solution which he calls the "six" or Small Group Exchange Plan (S.G.IX.). This is a state sponsored "mart" where small employers and individuals can go to purchase health insurance. He estimates a 5-30% overhead. Groups would range 5% and higher, while individuals would be at a 30% or lower overhead.

Advantages of this plan are in economy of scale to reduce overhead. As the large group grows, cost becomes more predictable. Products can be presented in an easy to understand format. The center could also assist in enrolling the medicaid eligible. Another advantage is that the S.G.IX. will set minimum benefit packages and insurance capital requirements, functioning as a human resources department, but would not be a regulator. They would assist firms and insurance carriers in risk-managed premium adjustments.

Employees need to be sensitized that health care isn't free. Proper adjustment for risk is key. This plan eliminates job lock and makes insurance portable. It will allow couples to combine different premiums. The plan would include a high risk and special needs pools.

To make it work you will need government money which could come from direct payment, such as medicaid, reforming medicaid to adjust upper limits, or creation of a low income pool. Tobacco and alcohol taxes are also an acceptable source. The plan would balance the risk to enroll an individual with their income. It would be provided on a "use it or lose it" basis. Lower premiums will get more people insured.

The state could possibly achieve a 30% increase in Medicaid sign up and a 50% reduction in the uninsured. (Attachment 1)

Chair Landwehr opened the floor for hearings on **SB 179 - Requiring high school graduation or equivalent for application for assistant funeral director.**

First to testify was proponent **Pam Scott**, Executive Director of the KS Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association (K.F.D.A.), who said that this bill was introduced at the request of the K.F.D.A. The bill amends the current statute to require that an applicant for an assistant funeral directors license must be a graduate of an accredited high school or must have obtained the equivalent of a high school education as

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determined by the state department of education as a prerequisite to licensure. The bill also requires an applicant to take and pass a written examination prior to being granted a license. The examination, still to be developed, should contain questions dealing with Kansas statutes and regulations dealing with funeral service. The bill also contains a grandfather clause providing for currently licensed assistant funeral directors to not be subject to the education and examination requirement of the bill. (Attachment 2)

Mack Smith, proponent, Executive Director of the Kansas Board of Mortuary Arts said that the Board supports the proposed changes in **SB 179**. Although nothing will be finalized until the bill passes, it is anticipated that they would administer a written examination on either a monthly or quarterly basis at the Topeka office. Questions would be over Kansas law involving the funeral profession and would be approved by the Board. (Attachment 3)

**Mortuary arts board supports proposed changes to license requirements.
Application fee is a one-time fee. License is renewed every 2 years. Exam fee is new**

Chair Landwehr closed hearings on **SB 179** and asked the committee if they objected to working the bill. Representative Patton voiced objection, preferring to have answers to several questions before the bill is worked. Chair Landwehr said that she intends to work the bill tomorrow then opened hearings on **SB178 - Cancer registry; uses of confidential data.**

Dr. Howard Rodenberg, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, (K.D.H.E.) Spoke as a proponent of **SB 178**, saying that Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death in the state. Costs exceed 1.6 billion per year in direct medical expenses, lost productivity on the job and premature death. Each year 12,000 Kansans are diagnosed with and 5,000 Kansans die from cancer.

Current law authorizes the Secretary of Health and Environment to collect data pertaining to all cancers that occur in Kansas, but is limited by restrictions related to use of confidential (identifiable) data. Current law allows for identifying the types and occurrence of cancer on a population basis but stops short of allowing a method to examine the causes of cancer or to identify modifiable influences that have a direct bearing on cancer outcomes. This restriction hampers public health efforts to implement recommendations of the Kansas Cancer Plan.

SB 178 proposes to allow the Secretary of K.D.H.E. to authorize use of Cancer Registry data under carefully controlled circumstances to expand the use of this confidential data. Follow up information would be collected directly from cancer patients or their families, who will be able to decline participation upon contact or any time thereafter. The bill allows for carefully administered follow-up studies to be conducted that will provide important information on access to care, survivorship issues, and quality of life following a cancer diagnosis. Follow-up data can be used for many purposes including late stage diagnosis, quality of life for those diagnosed, utilization of cancer screening and treatment services, and end-of-life care. The intended uses of the Kansas Cancer Registry do not duplicate any current clinical data bases in Kansas. Database information which is maintained nationally for clinical trials, maintain clinical but not quantitative data.. This bill will allow public health to understand what the issues are that cause poor cancer outcomes. (Attachment 4)

Chair Landwehr closed the hearings on **SB 178** and asked the committee if there were objections to working it. There were none.

Representative Neighbors motioned to pass SB 178 favorably and place on consent calendar. Motion was seconded by Representative Garcia. Motion carried.

Chair Landwehr open hearings on **SB202 - Definition of child care facility.**

Dr. Howard Rodenberg, K.D.H.E., a proponent, said that the existing statutes for child care licensing and those governing adoption are in conflict.

This bill proposes to amend the definition of a child care facility in order to clarify that individuals

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wishing to adopt children in the custody of the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services and who have signed an adoptive placement agreement are not subject to licensure by the K.D.H.E. (Attachment 5)

Sue McKenna from Social and Rehabilitative Services replied to Chair Landwehr's inquiry by replying that S.R.S. did not testify today but they have been working with K.D.H.E. and do support this bill.

Chair Landwehr closed the hearings on **SB 202** and asked the committee if there were objections to work the bill. There were none.

Representative Flaharty motioned to pass **SB 202** favorably. Motion was seconded by Representative Neighbor. Motion carried.

Chair Landwehr announced that we had planned to work **HB 2292 - Abortion; performance on a minor; certain restrictions**. She said there is more to this bill than we are seeing in the legislation. She intends to not work this bill and to recommend it be addressed over the interim. There are more issues here than meet the eye.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:49 P.M. Next meeting is March 20th at 1:30 P.M.