

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jason Watkins at 1:37p.m. on March 11, 2009, in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sawyer- excused

Committee staff present:

Jim Wilson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Cody Gorges, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Jeff King,

Representative Mike Burgess,

Trent Sebits, Americans For Prosperity

Kent Eckles, Kansas Chamber of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

The hearing on **HB 2273 - State finance, zero-based budget process, state agency estimates, justification of programs and activities** was opened.

Jim Wilson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided the committee with an overview of the balloon amendment.

Representative Mike Burgess (Attachment 1) spoke in favor of the bill. By implementing a zero-based budget process, this bill proposes allowing legislators the opportunity to make more informed budgetary decisions.

Representative Jeff King, a strong proponent of HB 2273, did not provide written testimony.

Trent Sebits, Americans For Prosperity (Attachment 2) a proponent of the bill, cited statistics from the National Conference of State Legislatures to support the position that zero-based budgeting reduces spending. Seven states have zero-based budgets. The Legislature must be committed to the process in order for it to succeed. He responded to questions from the committee.

Kent Eckles, Kansas Chamber of Commerce (Attachment 3), a proponent of the bill, submitted written testimony.

Representative Kelley expressed support of the bill. This process allows the Legislature to look at the effectiveness and the ability to measure needs of the budget. The current process is a spending process not a budgeting process. Representative DeGraaf wanted to know how zero-based budgeting will help the budget process when individuals cannot do this.

Representative Burroughs expressed concerns about the effectiveness of zero-based budgeting and questioned the data presented.

There were no opponents.

The hearing was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 02:55 p.m.