

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Schwartz at 9:00 A.M. on March 20, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Ty Masterson - excused
Representative Barbara Ballard - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department
Cody Gorges, Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Chief of Staff
Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Glenn Deck, Executive Director, Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs)
Thomas Thornton, President, Kansas Bioscience Authority
Ron Trewyn, Vice President for Research, Kansas State University

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Bill draft for proposed legislation
- Attachment 2 Response from Don Jordan relative to block grants
- Attachment 3 Report from Subcommittee on KPERs on **HB 2077, Sub for SB 662, SB 385**
- Attachment 4 Testimony on **HB 2974** by Thomas Thornton
- Attachment 5 Testimony on **HB 2974** by Ron Trewyn
- Attachment 6 Budget Committee report on **HB 2744**

Introduction of Legislation

Representative Burgess appeared before the Committee to request the introduction of legislation regarding voters photo identification.

Representative McLeland made a motion to introduce the legislation concerning voter photo identification. The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey. Motion carried.

Representative Watkins made a motion to introduce legislation concerning public schools, dyslexia and truancy. The motion was seconded by Representative Powell. Motion carried.

Woody Moser appeared before the Committee to request the introduction of legislation concerning drainage districts (Attachment 1).

Representative Powell made a motion to introduce legislation concerning drainage and levees; relating to excavation by drainage districts. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative Feuerborn made a motion to introduce legislation concerning appropriation of water and providing for certain studies thereof. The motion was seconded by Representative Tafanelli. Motion carried.

Response to Questions on SRS Block Grant

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Appropriations Committee at 9:00 A.M. on March 20, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

A response to Committee questions from Don Jordan, Secretary, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) was distributed to the Committee regarding information relative to the block grants administered by SRS (Attachment 2).

Discussion and Action on HB 2077, S Sub for SB 662, SB 385

Representative Pottorff, Chair of the Subcommittee on Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs), presented the Subcommittee report on KPERs issues (Attachment 3).

Responding to a question from the Committee, Glen Deck, Executive Director, KPERs, noted that KPERs has determined that several technical corrections were necessary to legislation as recommended by the Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits, and resulted in the amendments as recommended by the Subcommittee.

Representative Pottorff made a motion to adopt the Subcommittee on KPERs report to remove the language in SB 385 and insert the language from HB 2077 and Sub for SB 662 into House Substitute for SB 385. The motion was seconded by Representative Lane. Motion carried.

Representative Pottorff made a motion to recommend House Substitute for SB 385 favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Lane. Motion carried.

Discussion and Action on SB 534

Discussion and Action on SB 534 - Claims against the state.

Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department, noted that the Senate Ways and Means Committee amended **SB 534**, Page 9, regarding payment to Eldon Ray from the State General Fund (SGF) and further amended Page 10, to provide reimbursement for tuition for Brittany Jordan.

Representative Feuerborn made a motion to amend SB 534 to strike Section 6, Page 9. The motion was seconded by Representative Gatewood. Motion carried.

Representative Feuerborn made a motion to amend SB 534 by striking language on Page 10, Section 7, line 17 through Page 11, Section 7, line 2. The motion was seconded by Representative Henry.

Representative Feuerborn made a substitute motion to amend SB 534 by amending Section 7(d) to transfer funds from the budget of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) for payment of the Jordan claim with determination from the agency on source of funding and allow for technical corrections. The motion was seconded by Representative Tafanelli. Motion carried.

Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes, noted the necessity for technical corrections with regard to the amendment.

Representative McLeland made a motion to recommend SB 534 favorably for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Powell. Motion carried.

Hearing on HB 2974

Hearing on HB 2974 - Authorization for issuance of bonds for national bio and agro defense facility.

Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2974** would authorize the issuance of up to \$105 million in revenue bonds for the purpose of supporting a capital improvement project related to the national bio and agro defense facility. The bill would require the Kansas BioScience Authority to approve any such capital improvement project prior to the issuance of any bonds. Bonds would be issued by the Kansas Development Finance Authority.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Thomas Thornton, President, Kansas Bioscience Authority, presented testimony in support of **HB 2974** (Attachment 4). Mr. Thornton stated that it is important for Kansas to have the commitment of the Legislature in place as progress goes forward on the selection of the site for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. Mr. Thornton noted that a final decision on the site for the facility is scheduled to be made in October 2008.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Mr. Thornton stated that there would be no start-up costs unless the state was awarded the site selection for the facility. Mr. Thornton noted that land was conveyed for the project by the 2007 Legislature. Bond payments would be made by a commitment from the State General Fund or Expanded Lottery Act Revenue Funds (ELARF).

Ron Trewyn, Vice President for Research, Kansas State University, provided testimony in support of **HB 2974** (Attachment 5). Mr. Trewyn felt that Kansas is in an excellent position to receive approval for the Biosecurity Research facility. Mr. Trewyn assured the Committee that there would be additional state funding required for the infrastructure-related improvements for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF).

Representative Carlin made a motion to recommend **HB 2974** favorably for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Wolf. Motion carried.

Discussion and Action on HB 2890

Discussion and Action on HB 2890 - Division of vehicles modernization surcharge.

Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2890**, as amended, would authorize a \$4 fee on each vehicle registration with the funds generated to be used for the replacement of the statewide vehicle inventory system and driver's license system. The bill authorized the fee assessment for a period of 4 years, beginning January 1, 2009, through January 1, 2013. The estimated cost of the modernization project is \$40 million.

Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes, stated that there is a need for a technical correction to the bill.

Representative Bethell made a motion to recommend **HB 2890** favorably for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried on a 12-6 vote.

The Committee expressed a concern that the fee would generate more funds that required for the project as projected by the Joint Committee on Information Technology.

Budget Committee Report on HB 2744

Representative Yoder, Chair of the General Government Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on **HB 2744** and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee report (Attachment 6). The motion was seconded by Representative Lane. Motion carried.

Representative Yoder made a motion to recommend **HB 2744** favorably for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Lane. Motion carried.

Assignment of Legislation

SB 365 was assigned to the Social Services Budget Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 24, 2008.

Sharon Schwartz, Chair