

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Barnett at 1:30 P.M. on March 15, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Morgan Dreyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Chad Austin, Vice President, Government Relations, Kansas Hospital Association  
Sam Serrill, Chief Operating Officer of Wesley Medical Center  
Mary Ellen Conlee, Lobbyist for Via Christi Health System  
Scott Chapman, Administration of Manhattan Surgical Hospital  
Philip Harness, CEO Doctors Hospital, L.L.C. in Leawood  
Daryl Thornton, Chief Operating officer, Kansas Medical Center  
Dr. Gregory Duick, Chairman, Kansas Heart Hospital

Others attending:

See attached list.

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairman Barnett asked that the Committee review the Minutes for March 14, 2007 for approval at the end of the meeting.

The Chair called upon Terri Weber to read and explain **HB 2418**.

Questions came from Senators Schmidt, Wagle and Barnett regarding amendment from House, if KDHE can deny letters, participation statewide, trauma system and critical care access.

The Chair announced that the next order of business was to open the hearing on **HB 2418**.

**Hearing on HB 2418 – An act concerning the definition of general hospital**

With a large number of conferees, the Chair asked that the Committee hold their questions until the end of the hearing.

Chairman Barnett called upon his first proponent conferee, Chad Austin, Vice President, Government Relations, Kansas Hospital Association who stated that KHA believes it is time to clarify the requirements of a “general hospital” to ensure it more accurately reflects the public understanding of what constitutes a general hospital. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair called upon his second proponent conferee, Sam Serrill, Chief Operating Officer of Wesley Medical Center who stated that Wesley and he support passage of the bill, which will update and revise the Kansas hospital licensure laws to be consistent with the changes in hospital care and treatment occurring over the past 35 years and provide this important distinction. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Chairman Barnett called upon proponent conferee, Mary Ellen Conlee, Lobbyist for Via Christi Health System who stated that it is clear that special hospitals have evolved into a specific type of health care delivery model very different from the general hospital model. As a result, a better definition of a general hospital is demanded. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair called upon opponent conferee, Scott Chapman, Administration of Manhattan Surgical Hospital

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 P.M. on March 15, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

who stated that the associations's opposition to the bill is based on their belief that no change is needed to the current hospital licensure definitions. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Chairman Barnett called upon opponent conferee, Philip Harness, CEO Doctors Hospital, L.L.C. in Leawood who stated that the bill does not seem to accomplish a public or consumer oriented purpose, as well as, containing certain ambiguities, all of which leads to uncertain conclusions. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 5) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Chairman Barnett called upon neutral conferee, Daryl Thornton, Chief Operating officer, Kansas Medical Center who stated that if legislation is going to be enacted that specifically defines "general hospitals" and "special or specialty hospitals," to make certain together we implement a process that is more appropriate and accurate for Kansas hospitals. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 6) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair lastly called upon opponent conferee, Dr. Gregory Duick, Chairman, Kansas Heart Hospital who stated that this bill may unintentionally jeopardize rural hospital licensure by requiring dedicated emergency departments and strict DRG percentage criteria. Written testimony was not provided to the committee.

The Chair asked that Dr. Gregory Duick provide written testimony for the Committee to review.

With no more time for conferees or questions, Chairman Barnett asked for the Committee's approval of the Minutes for March 14, 2007 and that the Committee would continue the hearing on **HB 2418** at the next meeting.

The motion was made by Senator Haley to approve the Minutes. It was seconded by Senator Schmidt and the motion passed.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no more time, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2007.