

Approved: 2-3-11
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on January 11, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Steve Morris - excused

Committee staff present:

Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Doug Jorgensen, Acting State Fire Marshal
Brenda McNorton, Fire Prevention Division
Becky Bahr, Kansas State Fire Marshal

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed committee members and staff. The Chairman introduced new committee member Senator Jeff Longbine, and new staff member Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor. The Chairman also provided a brief overview of general subject matter and types of issues, confirmations and legislation the committee reviews and deals with.

Jason Long, Office of the Revisor, spoke briefly to the committee on the new legislative computer system, both for the chamber, bill drafting, research and extends out to all areas of function in the legislative branch. This system was just delivered end of last month, still adapting and making changes and ask for legislative consideration as bugs are worked out.

Doug Jorgensen, Acting Kansas State Fire Marshal, provided an annual update of revenue and expenses and overview of fire regulations dealing with schools. (Attachment 1) The primary funding source is levies assessed against home insurance premiums and deposited into the Fire Marshal Fee Fund which supports over \$4.3 million dollars of our total budget. The projected levy revenues are currently short by \$53,771. Historically the agency has been funded from these levies and did not have problems until 2004 when legislation was passed after a brief spike in revenues splitting funding the office, the Board of Emergency Medical Services, and KU Fire Service Training. These funding issues, an unpaid loan in the amount of \$250,000 from the HazMat Emergency Fund, increased responsibilities, and an aging vehicle fleet are ongoing challenges for our agency.

The Fire Prevention Division focuses on facilities posing distinct fire hazards and those places where the potential loss of life from fire is very high, including structures where the very young and very old live and congregate. The annual inspection cycle: preschools, child care centers, foster care, schools, colleges, universities, prisons, jails, residential board and care homes, hospitals, and nursing homes, as well as above-ground fuel storage and liquid petroleum gas facilities. Additionally, KSA 31-144 mandates that all school buildings shall be inspected at least once a year. The current adopted regulation and codes for existing education occupancies is the 1991 Edition of the National Fire Protection Association, Life Safety Code.

Brenda McNorton, Chief, Fire Prevention Division, addressed the committee's questions on 2006 International Fire Code vs. 1991 Life Safety Code.

Becky Bahr, Fiscal Officer was available to address the financial and budget information provided.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.