

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Dahl at 9:00 A.M. on January 24, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Patricia Kilpatrick- excused

Scott Schwab- excused

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Norm Furse, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Rena Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes

June Evans, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jim Garner, Secretary of Labor

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the meeting and stated the minutes of January 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23rd were before the committee to peruse and would ask for corrections/approval later.

The Chairman stated we were fortunate to have the Secretary of Labor, Secretary Garner, here to present to the committee an update on the Department of Labor.

Secretary Garner stated the Department of Labor has many responsibilities: (1) administers the unemployment insurance program which processes claims for benefits and collecting unemployment taxes to fund the system, (2) operates the state's workers compensation system, (3) safety and health division offers workplace safety consultations for private employers and provides investigations, (4) enforces employment laws, including child labor laws and Wage Payment Act, (5) manages the labor market information services - a research unit which compiles awesome data on the workforce in Kansas and (6) oversees the Public Employers and Employees Relations Act and the Public Negotiations Act.

As a new agency, the Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) developed a strategic plan to define a new vision and direction for the agency. The KDOL Strategic Plan reflects a sharper focus on providing quality customer service and efficiently delivery services. The customers are the 69,000 employers and the 1.3 million workers in Kansas. The people want more information, easier access to services and the assurance that resources are being used responsibly (Attachment 1 & 2 NOTE: Attachment 2- "2005 Kansas Job Vacancy Survey" filed in Chairman's office.

Representative Grange asked how many on line violations had been received?

The Secretary said he would check that out and get the information to the Committee.

Representative Grant asked what the amount of savings had been by the moratorium on unemployment insurance.

Secretary Garner said he would provide that information.

Representative Grant moved and Representative Sharp seconded the approval of the Minutes of January 17, 18, 19, 20 and 23. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting will be January 25, 2006