

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 22, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Connie Burns, Administrative Assistant  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Secretary Joan Wagon, Kansas Department of Revenue  
Major General Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General

Others attending:

See attached list.

Secretary Joan Wagon, Kansas Department of Revenue, provided the committee with an overview on the Kanss Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR).(Attachment 1) The 2002 Kansas Legislature created the 15 member council; KACIR is required to give particular attention to modernization of the structure of Kansas Local government, the impact of urbanization on the organization and functions of local government, the impact of technology on the organization and functions of local government, and the relationships between state and local governments; and is required to make an annual report in writing to the Governor and Legislature. A report of the KACIR meetings was provided.

KACIR policy recommendations are to introduce in the Senate legislation to remove the remaining barriers to consolidation, particularly city-county consolidation, and provide incentives to consolidate. The decision to require a dual majority should be left to the consolidation commission. The proposed bill would authorize the creation of consolidation study commissions to adopt a plan for cities and county consolidation and would authorize the consolidation of other political and taxing subsidivisons. KACIR should examine how local governments are funded and recommend any changes in tax sources to the 2010 legislature.

Secretary Joan Wagon requested a bill introduction allowing consolidation of cities and counties that would allow the issue of dual majority to be the responsibility of the consolidation planning commission.

Senator Owens moved that this request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator Abrams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Major General Tod Bunting, Kansas Adjutant General, gave an update on the Kansas National Guard. (Attachment 2) Kansas had three weather disasters resulting in federal disaster declarations; a significant ice storm which impacted north central and northeastern Kansas causing widespread power outages for days throughout 65 counties; tornadoes in Chapman and Manhattan, with storm damage in 44 other counties; and flooding in 10 counties throughout southeast and south central Kansas for total damages of over \$400 million. There remains 12 federal disasters that are at some level of action in Kansas. During these disasters, Kansas guardsmen were called out to support community needs including generator power and security. The State's Incident Management Teams supported the counties when needed, with additional personnel to work in the emergency operations centers. The Guard also sent support to the Iowa flooding, to Louisiana and Mississippi during Hurricane Gustav, to Texas for Hurricane Ike response, and the Black Hawk helicopters went to California for the fires.

Thousands of the Kansas Guardsmen have served and continue to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosova, Djibouti and along the U.S. - Mexico border, protecting our nation during the Global War on Terrorism. The Guard continues to expand its partnership with community and private industry highlighting the partnership with Weststar on previous diasters; continued coordination with Westar and the Rural Electric Cooperatives by placing members in each other's operational centers to coordinate the most critical restoration of power in close coordination for the customers at risk.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am