

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Susan Wagle at 8:30 a.m. on January 27, 2011 in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Assistant  
Mr. Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ms. Dorothy Noblit, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mr. Ken Wilke, Kansas Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mr. Pat George, Acting Secretary, Department of Commerce  
Mrs. Karin Brownlee, Acting Secretary, Department of Labor

Others attending:

See attached list.

### Introduction of bills

Upon calling the meeting to order, the Chair stated she wanted to request a bills including: With the governor requesting we pull KTEC into Commerce and they have an appointment on other bioscience Boards, the Chair would like to make a motion to have the Committee introduce a bill that takes the appointments from KTEC and has them appointed by the governor's office. It was seconded by Senator Masterson and the motion passed.

### Confirmation Hearings

Next on the agenda, the Chair stated as the Committee had received confirmation information for Mr. Pat George, Acting Secretary. Department of Commerce and he is here today before the Committee to answer questions including:

1. Senator Wagle stated just in case it comes up on the floor, the reference regarding the alcohol problem and would he like to comment on his answer to question 40, page F-7 of his Senate Confirmation Information Summary? (He has been clean & sober for 18 years and serves as Chairman of the Board of Valley Hope Association, the largest non-profit provider of substance abuse treatment in the United States.)
2. Senator Merrick wanted to commend him for being proactive in this situation.
3. Senator Schodorf stated, in reading over his business career and all the things he is involved with, she feels he is well qualified to assume this position, She is however, still concerned with tourism being moved to Wild Life and Parks and asked if he would work with them to see if it is more efficient and if it looks like it is not working, she hopes that they all reconsider this. (He would support.)
4. Senator Wagle related there seems to be a priority in this administration to build a team experience and could he comment on this? (Works better for him if he is part of a team. Teams seem to streamline and move things quicker just like businesses.)
5. Regarding the housing program, Senator Steineger asked if it is still the governor's intent to take the Kansas Housing Resources Core and bring in under Commerce or is it still going to remain independent? (Still in conversation.) And, regarding the effect of disassembling KTEC and move some of the parts into Commerce, how soon do you see this happening? (It is in bill form so however the process works there.)
6. Senator Longbine asked Acting Secretary George not to loose focus on entrepreneurship, small manufacturing, etc who are more likely to locate in small communities and midsize metropolitan areas, to make sure we are creating and keeping jobs in those communities and also the retail environment. (Thank you for your comment.)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Business and Labor Committee at 8:30 a.m. on January 27, 2010, in Room 548-S of the Capitol

As there were no further questions or comments, Senator Steineger made the motion to move out the advancement of Mr. Pat George for Secretary of Commerce favorably. It was seconded by Senator Olson and the motion carried.

The Chair then called on Mrs. Karin Brownlee, Acting Secretary, Department of Labor and made the comment that of all agencies the consensus is we have seen the greatest transformation in the Department of Labor and has made our jobs a lot easier in not receiving phone calls from unemployed workers who can't, for example, find services, get their checks, or process claims. (Thank you for the comment and she will pass on to the people who worked on that and stated they have basically re-prioritized and made it a goal that customers have to be a priority.)

Senator Schodorf commented that SRS needs to take some of her advice.

As there were no further comments or questions, Senator Steineger made the motion to move favorably, the appointment of Mrs. Karin Brownlee as Secretary of the Department of Labor. It was seconded by Senator Lynn and the motion passed.

### **Adjournment**

As there was no further business Chairperson Wagle adjourned the meeting, The time was 9:30 a.m  
The next meeting scheduled for February 3, 2011.