

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenny Wilk at 9:05 a.m. on February 13, 2001 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research
Rae Anne Davis, Legislative Research
Paul West, Legislative Research
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See Attached

Representative Stone moved for the introduction of legislation which would allow certain non-partisan legislative staff to choose between the 8% deferred compensation plan and KPERS. Motion was seconded by Representative Kline. Motion carried.

Representative Wilk moved for the introduction of legislation concerning a KPERS defined contribution plan. Motion was seconded by Representative Nichols. Motion carried.

Representative Klein moved for legislation concerning qualifications for drivers licenses. Motion was seconded by Representative Nichols. Motion carried.

Representative Shultz, Chairman of the Education Budget Committee, presented the Committee Report for the Department of Education and moved for the adoption and approval of the Governor's Recommendations for FY 2001 (Attachment 1). Motion was seconded by Representative Light. Motion carried.

Representative Shultz, Chairman of the Education Budget Committee, presented the Committee Report for the Department of Education and moved for the adoption and approval of the Governor's Recommendations for FY 2002 by prefacing its recommendations by stating that the Legislature currently is operating in a period of uncertainty regarding the condition of state revenues and that it is possible that budgets will have to be adjusted at the end of the Session after consensus estimators meet in April (Attachment 2). The motion was seconded by Representative Light. After Committee discussion, Representative Shultz rephrased his motion to include that of the following amendments. This motion was seconded by Representative Nichols. Motion carried.

A typographical error on Page 3 was is to be corrected from 0.9 to .09.

The Committee noted that there has been legislation introduced by the Senate (**SB 202**) which proposes including special education in state aid. The proposed 2002 Education Budget is \$130 million short of the recommended Vision 2000 Task Force.

The Governor's Recommendation includes adding 3,000 children to the Parents as Teachers program if the district can meet the match of \$1.00 from the state with the district financing \$0.65. Several thousand students were denied access to the program this past year as the districts could not afford the required match. The Budget Committee has recommended transferring \$2 million from the Parents as Teachers program to the proposed Educational Accountability program. Representative Kathe Lloyd, Chairman of the Committee Education Sub-Committee on Accountability, explained they are targeting K through 3 children and working to develop a proficiency level through extended learning time, tutoring, mentoring, and intervention.

The Appropriations Committee urged the Children's Cabinet to have readiness indicators developed by October 2001. The Committee questioned the wisdom of taking money from a proven program and starting another program which has no proven record at this time. It was pointed out that the Accountability program

was a direct intervention and that the Budget Committee would continue with their work in attempting to find money for early childhood development programs.

It was pointed out that the one totally unanimous decision made by the Vision 2000 Task Force was to allocate \$450,000 for a professionally conducted study of the school finance formula. The Budget Committee has recommended that this money be used for the four-year-old at risk program. It was pointed out that this \$450,000 could serve 196 children in need of such services. The need for a new school finance formula was acknowledged as some districts are currently in litigation and some districts think they are underfunded.

In response to the Budget Committee's recommendation that the Infants and Toddlers program be moved to the Department of Education, Committee members pointed out that this move may jeopardize the charitable funding which has been part of some community programs. The move to the Department of Education would save the program more than \$160,000 by using some of the special education funds. It was pointed out that some of the children involved in the program may have three case managers: foster care, infant and toddler, and special education if such a move is made.

Representative Henry moved to amend the bill by requiring that the Department of Education prepare a written plan on how the proposal to move the Infants and Toddlers program to their department would interact with other programs which provide funding such as SRS and describe their coordination of services. Motion was seconded by Representative Nichols. Motion carried.

Representative Kline moved to amend the Committee Report by asking that a bill be introduced to move the Infants and Toddlers Program from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to the Department of Education according to the Governor's Recommendation. Motion was seconded by Representative Landwehr. Motion carried.

Representative Ballard moved for the Budget Committee to reinstate the \$450,000 from the State General Fund for a professional study of the school finance formula as recommended by the Task Force and the Governor. The motion was seconded by Representative Shriver. Motion failed.

It was noted that funding for the Kansas Cultural Center was inadvertently omitted from the budget for FY 2001 and FY 2002. This is a lending library funded primarily through the Dodge City School system and fees. Only 15 to 20% of their budget comes from the State General Fund. Negotiations are on-going regarding making this part of the Kansas Historical Society's budget.

Representative Shriver moved to amend the Committee Report by adding \$30,000 from the State General Fund for the Kansas Cultural Center for FY 2002. The motion was seconded by Representative Pottorff. Motion carried. Representative Spangler asked to be recorded as a "no" vote.

Committee members questioned the appropriateness of the Sunflower Foundation being part of the Attorney General's budget. At this point the state cannot access any of the \$75 million which was a settlement paid by Blue Cross/Blue Shield and earmarked for healthcare initiatives for the children of Kansas. The legality of this was questioned and the need for a discussion of this as public policy was mentioned.

Representative Spangler moved to amend the Committee Report to include examining the possibility of tapping the \$75 million from the Sunflower Funds to fund existing educational programs during the Omnibus Session. Motion was seconded by Representative Toplikar. The motion and second were later withdrawn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2001.