

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 3:35 p.m. on March 18, 2002 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Mary Pilcher Cook (A)
Annie Kuether (E)
Joe McLeland (E)
Ralph Tanner (A)
Valdenia Winn (A)

Committee staff present: Paul West, Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Dee Ann Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Kevin Robertson, Executive Director, Kansas Dental Association

Others attending: See attached list.

SB 333 - State board of regents, agreements with certain dental students

Chairperson Benlon opened the hearing on **SB 333**, and called the first proponent, Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association, who testified in support of this proposed legislation. He told the Committee that this bill was drafted late last session so it was a hold over bill. He said it would require students who enroll in dental school using seats guaranteed by the State of Kansas to return to practice in Kansas for a period of time equal to the number of years they were enrolled. He stated that the number of dentists in Kansas was decreasing.

Mr. Robertson explained that since Kansas does not have a School of Dentistry, the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) and the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education have entered into an agreement whereby the UMKC School of Dentistry accepts a total of 80 Kansas students in their dental, dental specialty, and dental hygiene programs. He said in return the University of Kansas and Kansas State University provide 491 architecture and engineering seats to Missouri students at in-state tuition. Mr. Robertson stated this was a scholarship bill without the scholarship, and it would allow the state to collect money from dental students who choose not to return to Kansas after being in one of the programs the state has an agreement with for out-of-state dental school. He said they would have to pay back to the State of Kansas the difference between the in-state tuition they paid being in the program and the out-of-state tuition that they would have had to pay. His written testimony showed the approximate dollar amounts that could be repaid by students who chose not to work in Kansas after graduation.

(Attachment 1)

Mr. Robertson testified that **SB 333** would allow the state to recoup funds from students who had benefitted by attending dental school at reduced tuition, but it also created an incentive for students to practice in Kansas. He also explained why the number of dentists are decreasing in the state as well as all over the United States. He stated that UMKC was increasing its dental class size from 86 to 100, which would result in an increase of approximately 13 to 20 Kansas students being accepted each year. He concluded his testimony by requesting that Section 5 be amended by deleting 2002-03 and adding 2003-04 since the bill was held over from the 2001 Legislative Session.

The Chair asked why Kansas got 80 dental seats at UMKC, and in turn Missouri gets 491 seats in Kansas. Mr. Robertson replied that he could not answer that question fully since he had never been involved in that part of the negotiations, but thought it was due to the negotiations between the Kansas Board of Regents and the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education in regard to the value Missouri placed on those seats. Dick Carter and Joe Emmons, representing the KBOR, explained how it is equated out based on the cost of the dental seats. They also communicated that the current contract was under review.

General questions and discussion followed regarding how many of the 491 seats were being used, and if Missouri did not have the programs that Kansas could offer. Representative Wells referred to the next to last paragraph of page 1 of Mr. Robertson's written testimony regarding **SB 333** not creating more money as a scholarship to students, etc., and asked if there was anything currently in place to recoup the tuition from out-of-state students upon graduation. Mr. Robertson responded that there was not. Representative Sloan asked for clarification on the change of date requested.

Chairperson Benlon called for any other proponents, and seeing none she asked if there were any opponents. There being none to appear before the Committee, she closed the hearing on **SB 333**. The Chair asked Dick Carter, KBOR, if he would like to say a few words as a neutral party as to the Board's position on this bill. Mr. Carter explained that this was a Senate bill service type program, and the money does not come with it but the commitment does of administering and tracking this program. He shared with the Committee members what KBOR was looking into as far as the dental seats available and why they are not being filled. He commented that the percentage rate indicated on the payback might not actually be as high as 15%. Diane Lindeman, Director for Student Financial Aid, KBOR, also clarified information on the adjustable percentage rate. Mr. Carter stated that the various programs have different paybacks, and some of the programs such as the Osteopath Program has more payback than the Teachers Scholarship Program since most teachers stay in the state after graduation.

Committee discussion and questions continued regarding the actual administrative costs to KBOR, explanation of the Supplemental Note, varying numbers of Kansas students each year, and the number of Kansas students in each type of program.

Mr. Robertson further commented that all the students will be in general dentistry until such time when they graduate. He explained that dentistry is sort of the opposite of the physical sciences in that they have roughly 80% of the dentists are general dentists and 20% are specialists whereas with physical healthcare it was approximately 20% were general practitioners and 80% were specialists. He stated that most of those students graduating do enter the workforce at the end of their four year dental program, and that Kansas needed more pediatric dentists, endodontists, and all the specialities in the state of Kansas. He said that UMKC had told them they would be increasing the size of their classes from 86 to 100 beginning over a two year phase in 2003-04. He added that they had verbally agreed to increase the number of Kansas students, but there was not a formal agreement on that.

Chairperson Benlon closed the hearing on **SB 333**. The Chair directed the Committee's attention to the minutes for the February 20, February 25, and March 6 meetings which had been distributed to the members earlier the previous week. Representative Storm made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Horst, and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next meeting of the House Higher Education Committee will be On Call of the Chair.

CONTINUATION SHEET