

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 9:30 a.m. on April 17, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Corbin and Schodorf, excused

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Dept.
Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

School Finance

The staff presented information in response to questions raised at the prior meeting. Material included the current State General Fund profile, a profile based on increase sales tax revenues, and a profile assuming an ending balance of 6.0 percent in FY 2002.

Committee members resumed their discussion of alternatives and proposed two new plans as follows:

The first plan was proposed by Senators Vratil and Lee:

Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$3,920
At-Risk Weighting	10 percent
Correlation Weighting	1,695
Four-Year Old at-Risk Pupils	4,410
Special Education	88%
Extended Learning	\$20
Reward for Outstanding Teachers	1.0 million
Alternative Compensation	0.5 million
School Finance Study	0.2 million
Total Cost	\$107.2 million

The second proposal was made by Senator Vratil:

Base State Aid Per Pupil	\$3,920
At-Risk Weighting	10 percent
Correlation Weighting	1,695
Four-Year Old at-Risk Pupils	4,410
Special Education	87%
Extended Learning	\$20
Reward for Outstanding Teachers	1.0 million
Alternative Compensation	0.5 million
School Finance Study	0.2 million
Total Cost	\$103.2 million

Senator Umbarger asked members to declare a preference between the “average” plan and the latest proposal made by Senator Vratil, and a majority of the members preferred the “average” plan. The Committee also agreed to support Senator Vratil’s proposal to run special education through the school

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finance formula and to recommend the \$10.0 million for higher education. However, after further discussion, the Committee decided not to make higher education part of the proposal and instead to request that Senator Umbarger write a letter to the Ways and Means Committee expressing the Education Committee's support for higher education funding, including \$4.0 million for technology projects and the \$6.0 million for utilities at the public universities. In addition, the letter would cite revenue sources for the funding for consideration by the Ways and Means Committee.

After additional discussion, it was agreed that the revenue source for the Committee's elementary-secondary proposal would be a recommended increase in the state sales and compensating use tax from 4.9 percent to 5.0 percent, effective June 1, 2001, which is estimated to generate \$36.7 million, and the reimposition of the inheritance tax on class C heirs, which is estimated to generate \$20.0 million, for a total increase in revenue of \$56.7 million. The Committee also agreed to recommend that the component of its plan relating to four-year-old at-risk children be funded with \$5.0 million from the Children's Initiatives Fund.

The Committee decided to use **HB2336** as their vehicle for its proposal and to include in the bill the provisions of **HB2094** which adds three new juvenile detention facilities to the list of participating facilities for which school districts may be reimbursed for services provided. (The three facilities are Liberty Juvenile Justice Services and Treatment (USD 259-Wichita), King's Achievement Center (USD265-Goddard), and Clarence M. Kelly Transitional Living Center (USD501-Topeka). The FY2002 fiscal impact of adding the facilities would be \$438,304.

A motion was made by Senator Oleen to put the education proposal into **HB2336**. The motion was seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried. The Senate Education Committee will meet at 11:30 on April 25 to take action of **HB2336**, which will become **Senate Substitute for HB 2336**.

Chairman Umbarger adjourned the meeting.