

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on January 22, 2003 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes  
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mr. Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association  
Mr. Mike Heim, Legislative Research

Others attending: see attached guest list

### **Recognitions**

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Wagle welcomed Senator Karin Brownlee, the new Committee Member replacing Senator Sandy Praeger.

### **Introduction of Bills**

The Chair then stated that before the overview of the long term care services task force, she did want to have bill introductions. For the first bill she called upon her Vice-Chair, Senator Jim Barnett to explain the bill that he brought to the Committee.

Senator Barnett announced he would be introducing a bill dealing with the transfer of hospital assets and a creation of a foundation based upon this act that would deal with the sale of Health Midwest. Before he explained the bill, he wanted to take a special pause to express appreciation on the part of the entire Public Health & Welfare Committee for the cooperation between the Governor's office and the Attorney General's office on this proposal, having worked closely together.

Senator Barnett then went on to say that as of yesterday, January 21, 2003, a settlement was reached with Missouri which only gave the State of Kansas 10% of the hospital assets. The feeling was, that this was an unfair amount and it should be more in the line of 20%. The Governor's office and the Attorney General's office have agreed upon a recommended introduction of this bill to create a foundation.

This foundation would consist of 18 members:

Five Governor appointees,  
Five from the Attorney General,  
Three from the Senate President,  
Three from the Speaker of the House,  
One Minority Leader in the Senate, and  
One Minority Leader in the House of Representatives.

He concluded by stating special language was included in this bill so that the foundation could not be involved in any type of political activity and that in essence was the bill.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chairperson Wagle then asked if there were questions or comments of the Committee about the bill. Senator Haley echoed some of Senator Barnett's comments and concern about equity and the ability for two branches of our government to work together, the Governor and the Attorney General and seconded the motion to introduce the bill. The Chair then said that there was a motion by Senator Barnett to introduce this bill and a second by Senator Haley. The motion carried

She then stated that this bill was on the fast track and that there would be a joint republican and democratic caucus after they meet on the Senate floor today with the intention of moving it through the Senate and the Committee of the Whole.

The Chair then recognized Mr. Kevin Robertson, Kansas Dental Association, who stated that he had a bill that the Kansas Dental Association and the Kansas Dental Hygienists Association, had been working on for a year. This bill would allow dental hygienists, who are qualified, to acquire a permit and work in schools, nursing homes, health clinics, correctional facilities, homebound care, and so on, under a lesser amount of supervision than they currently work under. A copy of the bill draft is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

The Chair then asked for questions of the Committee about the bill draft. As there were none, Senator Salmans made a motion to introduce the bill. Senator Jordan seconded and the motion carried.

### **Overview - Long Term Care Services Task Force Recommendations**

As there were no more bill introductions, the Chair recognized Mr. Mike Heim from Legislative Research, to present a "Report of the long-term Care Services Task Force to the 2003 Kansas Legislature. Mr. Heim began by providing some background information on the long-term Care Task Force, how the members are picked, the actual membership, the task force's activities, conferee concerns and issues, EBRI Study (income needs of the elderly) and its results, Kansas ElderCount 2002, year 3 - conclusions and recommendations, year one goals, defined long-term care and six goals to be achieved by the end of 2005. A copy of his report is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference

The Chair then asked for questions or comments from the Committee for Mr. Heim. Questions were asked from Senators Barnett and Brownlee regarding durable medical equipment ( how much of this could be recouped and is legislation needed to bring this about), and in recommendation one, there are two agencies being asked to work together in their data collection (SRS & KDHE), why would data not be collected under the Department of Aging. As the Committee's Revisor and some Committee members had to leave early, Chairperson Wagle said that these questions will be brought to the Committee at a later date, and copies of the bills that have been written will be brought to the Committee for introduction hopefully by sometime next week.

### **Adjourned**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2002.