Approved:
Date 3-5-03

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:35 p.m. on February 25, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Oleen (excused)

Committee staff present: Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statues
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Bill Bunten
Senator Dave Jackson
Doug Glenn, Member, Topeka Public School Board of Education
Dr. Kent Hurn, United School Administrators of Kansas
Theresa Kiernan

Others attending: See attached list

SB 121–School District Budgets

Senator Bill Bunten testified in support of **SB121.** Senator Bunten reviewed what changes the bill would require in a school budget. The only purpose of **SB121** is to make school budgets more easily read and understood by those patrons who want to know what is happening in their schools. (Attachment 1)

Senator Dave Jackson testified in support of **SB121.** His experience as a budget analyst using the building by building budget, similar to Senator Bunten's approach, allowed him or anyone to review and determine specific costs for each building. This provided information to determine if buildings were energy efficient, cost of maintenance or any other costs of operation. Using this method of budgeting, they were able to identify costs above the norm and address the problems and consequently, lower the costs. (Attachment 2)

Doug Glenn, Topeka Schools Board of Education, testified in opposition of **SB121.** Mr. Glen is in agreement that the school budgets need to be easier to read but does not believe the proposed budget is the answer. He does not believe it would be easier to read; it is not an efficient use of staff time and district dollars, it has unworkable time lines, and it is not consistent with the Legislative Post Audit report. He believes the post audit report provided a good workable format. (Attachment 3)

Dr. Kent Hurn, United School Administrators of Kansas, testified in opposition of **SB121.** Dr. Hurn agrees that school budgets should be easier to read, but does not believe **SB121** is the way to accomplish that. Some of the information required in **SB121** changes daily and they question how some of the

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required information required will be used. He is afraid of the potential that we could be shattering the cash basis law. He feels it is important that the cash basis law is preserved. (Attachment 4)

Gary George, Olathe School District, offered written testimony opposing **SB121.** Mr. George's testimony states that **SB121** would dramatically increase costs for legal publication of their budget, it has an unworkable calendar, it does not consider that schools rely on the county for assessed valuation figures that would be difficult to get by June 30, the bill provides a penalty for violating any of the provisions including removal from office or disciplinary action. **SB121** will force districts to spend money they don't have on an unworkable law that requires information of no value in preparing a budget, it increases publication costs and will make it even harder for board members to serve their community. (Attachment 5)

Dr. Sharon Zoellner, Desoto School District, offered written testimony opposing **SB121.** Dr. Zoellner believes that **SB121** takes away some very critical local control issues with regard to budget reporting. Information requested by this bill is not relevant to the budget process. Publication of particular budget information is a local decision and should not be delivered by legislation. **SB121** would divert resources from the classroom to the business office in order to create a multitude of new reports. (Attachment 6)

Senator Bunten stated that it was his interest to get **SB121** to the full Senate for debate. Senator Bunten made a motion to move **SB121** out of the Committee without any recommendation to the floor of the Senate. Seconded by Senator Emler. Roll call vote was taken and the motion failed with a vote of 5 nays and 3 yeas. Chairman Umbarger abstained.

Substitute for SB83–School districts relating to certain funds

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes, explained **Substitute for SB83** which includes the Task Force on School Budgets recommendations**.** Theresa explained an amendment in Section 19 to clarify the intent of the bill regarding funds that school districts are authorized to carry forward from one budget year to the next. (Attachment 7)

Senator Vratil made a motion to recommend favorably passage of **Substitute for SB83** as modified with the new Section 19. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Discussion followed with a substitute motion by Senator Bunten to remove the last sentence of paragraph B in section 19**.** Seconded by Corbin. After more discussion, Senator Bunten's withdrew his motion. A vote was taken on the first motion made by Senator Vratil. Motion carried.

Senator Downey acknowledged the efforts of Senator Bunten to raise the visibility of the issue of school budgets and she believes it is important that the issues be examined from time to time. Senator Umbarger agreed with the comments and adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123S**.**

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:35 p.m. on February 25, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

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