

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. On January 23, 2001 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Rick Rehorn - Excused

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Legislative Research Department

Jennifer Strait, Intern for Legislative Research Department

Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes Office

Cindy O'Neal, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Janet Schalansky, Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)

James R. Weaver, President US Operations, Tier Technologies, Inc. (TT)

Conferee Schalansky, presented a history of the Kansas Payment Center (KPC), a federally mandated centralized child support payment facility begun September 29, 2000 and discussed it's development and operation by TT. She reviewed the child support enforcement process detailing the receipt/disbursement of funds portion which the KPC handles. She acknowledged that there have been problems and explained the methods by which SRS and TT are working to alleviate them. (Attachment 1 - An appropriations proviso which SRS used [along with a court order] to initiate the KPC is included in the attachment) There was extensive discussion with clarification by several SRS staff members present in response to Committee members questions. The main topics of discussion related to: interest payments on monies collected; number of cases in the "suspense" or unidentified file; delays and errors in payments; computer system; etc.

Conferee Weaver presented a brief background on TT, a corporation which has entered into contractual agreements to implement and operate child support payment centers throughout the United States. Statistically TT transacts in excess of 17 million payments totaling over \$2.5 billion dollars for eight states including Kansas. He discussed the conversion process since the KPC was initiated in September, 2000 and acknowledged problems and errors which have occurred. He detailed actions used to bring resolution to these conversion issues and bring stability to the KPC. Topics he covered include: staffing; unidentified payments; misdirected payments; customer service; electronic funds transfer; direct deposits; check disbursement handling; payment histories; and difficult cases. He assured Committee that there is ongoing communication between TT, SRS and the courts to help clarify and correct problems and the process of education for employers, payors and recipients within the system, continues. (Attachment 2) Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2001.