

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on January 31, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Scott Gates, State Treasurer's Office

On behalf of the Wichita public schools, Senator Schodorf requested the introduction of a bill which would amend the student disciplinary hearing process to allow school boards more flexibility in scheduling appeal hearings for student suspension or expulsion.

Senator Lee moved to introduce the bill, seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion carried.

**SB 330—Learning Quest (family postsecondary savings accounts); removing penalty for early withdrawal**

Scott Gates, Office of the State Treasurer, testified in support of **SB 330**. He explained that the bill would remove the penalty imposed on Kansas investors when they withdraw contributions to their Learning Quest account within one year after opening the account. He pointed out that the intent of the penalty was to prevent people from manipulating the tax code by quickly taking money in and out; however, there are many other reasons for persons to change their investment. He noted that, unfortunately, some people do not hear about the Learning Quest plan until their student is a senior in high school preparing for college, and Treasurer Jenkins believes that it is unfair to penalize citizens who get a late start at saving for college. For the Committee's information, a table outlining deductions and restrictions in other states and a report from the Department of Revenue outlining the cost of the tax deduction for the Learning Quest program in 2004 was attached to his written testimony. (Attachment 1) Mr. Gates responded to questions from the Committee.

There being no others wishing to testify, the hearing on **SB 330** was closed.

Senator Schodorf opened a discussion on a previously heard bill, **SB 329** concerning the review of curriculum standards and called attention to a balloon of the bill. (Attachment 2)

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office, noted that, at the hearing on the bill, members expressed their concern that striking "equal to the best standards" on lines 22 and 23 may allow less than the best standards to be adopted. She pointed out that the balloon version of the bill consistently provided that the State Board shall establish curriculum standards which reflect "high academic standards." In addition, she explained that subsection (c) clarifies what the standards are.

Senator Teichman moved to amend **SB 329** as shown in the balloon, seconded by Senator Lee. The motion carried.

Senator Lee moved to recommend **SB 329** favorably for passage as amended, seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion carried.

Senator Lee noted the Division of Legislative Post Audit had provided the information she requested relating to various impacts of the cost study results. She felt it was appropriate to share the information with other Committee members; therefore, she requested that copies of the information be provided for the full committee. (Attachment 3)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2006.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on January 31, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.