

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 A.M. on February 6, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Nick Jordan- excused

Committee staff present:  
Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes  
Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes  
Jackie Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Secretary David Kerr, Department of Commerce  
Christi Caldwell, Topeka Chamber  
Ashley Sherard, Lenexa Chamber  
Marlee Carpenter, KCCI  
Kent Eckles, Overland Park Chamber  
Bernie Koch, Wichita Chamber

Others attending:  
See attached list.

To read testimony submitted by conferees go to  
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/government/KansasSenateCommerceCommittee>.

**SB 453--Establishing the Kansas commission on rural policy**

**SB 525--Kansas investments in major products and comprehensive training act (IMPACT) amendments**

**SB 438--Job security for volunteer firefighters**

Chairperson Brownlee called the Committee's attention to a handout from Marlee Carpenter, KCCI, which is follow-up information on questions raised in the presentation by Amy Blakenbiller, President, KCCI. (Attachment 1). She also alerted the Committee to the fiscal note on **SB 453**.

Chairperson Brownlee called on Norman Furse, Revisors Office, to explain **SB 525**. Mr. Furse stated that the bill is making changes in the comprehensive training act (IMPACT). The bill would modify the existing act allowing a combination of cash incentives and training to create new jobs in Kansas.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Furse's explanation of the bill, Chairperson Brownlee opened the hearing on **SB 525** and introduced Secretary David Kerr, Department of Commerce, to give his testimony as a proponent of the bill. Secretary Kerr presented written testimony (Attachment 2) which can be found in its entirety on the link shown above.

Upon the conclusion of Secretary Kerr's testimony there were questions from the Committee regarding the changes in the bill. Secretary Kerr stated the changes would give the Department of Commerce a tool with more flexibility to offer cash incentives to keep jobs in Kansas and also bring new jobs to Kansas. The Committee stated it would be helpful to see how the IMPACT program has performed over the past three to five years. Secretary Kerr stated the Department of Commerce was just finalizing that information for the past three years and it should be complete by the end of the week and he could get the information the Committee.

Upon the conclusion of the questions and answers, Chairperson Brownlee introduced Ms. Christi Caldwell, Topeka Chamber, to give her testimony as a proponent of **SB 525**. Ms. Caldwell presented written testimony (Attachment 3) which can be found in its entirety in the link shown above.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chairperson Brownlee stated questions will be held until the completion of the testimony from the proponents of the bill and introduced Ashley Sherard, Lenexa Chamber, to give her testimony as a proponent of **SB 525**. Ms. Sherard presented written testimony ([Attachment 4](#)) which can be found in its entirety in the link shown on page 1 of these minutes.

Chairperson Brownlee introduced Mr. Bernie Koch, Wichita Chamber, to give his testimony as a proponent of **SB 525**. Mr. Koch presented written testimony ([Attachment 5](#)) which can be found in its entirety in the link shown on page 1 of these minutes.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Koch's testimony there was discussion with the Committee regarding the information in his testimony which the Committee thought was very helpful information regarding other states and the incentives they offer to bring in new business and keep the existing ones. The Committee also appreciated having the information on the cash incentives they have to offer. It was noted that in 2008 about 26% of the aviation workforce in Wichita will be eligible to retire and Mr. Koch stated they are addressing that problem by creating a National Center for Aviation training hoping that after the training is complete, students will stay in the area and work. Senator Schordorf entered the discussion adding that they will need 20,000 people within the next ten years in the workforce in Wichita.

Chairperson Brownlee asked if anyone else would like to speak for or against or as neutral party on **SB 525**. Secretary Joan Wagon, Department of Revenue, was recognized and she stated that the Department of Revenue was in support of the bill. Secretary Kerr, Department of Commerce, was recognized and he stated that several states have a cash slush fund they can use to bring new business to their states and keep the existing ones in their states.

Chairperson Brownlee closed the hearing on **SB 525**.

Chairperson Brownlee called the Committee's attention to the written testimonies of proponents that could not make it to the meeting due to the weather conditions. Those conferees are listed below. Their testimonies can be found in their entirety at the link shown on page 1 of these minutes.

Marlee Carpenter, KCCI. ([Attachment 6](#))  
Kent Eckles, Overland Park Chamber ([Attachment 7](#))

Chairperson Brownlee called the Committee's attention to **SB 438** and announced that there is a request for amendments.

### **Senator Teichman made a motion to include EMS to the bill.**

Chairperson Brownlee recognized Jason Long, Revisors Office. Mr. Long stated he had a balloon ([Attachment 7](#)) to offer on the bill which added not only the certified medical services attendants as defined in 65-6112, but would also include reserve law enforcement officers and part-time law officers. The balloon would also make an exception from application of law for any employer when the employee is employed as a full time firefighter or law enforcement officer.

### **Senator Teichman withdrew her original motion and made a motion to approve the balloon that Mr. Long was offering. Seconded by Senator Kelly. Motion carried.**

Chairperson Brownlee stated that she has concerns regarding volunteer police that are used for crowd control and she wants to make sure that they are not included in this bill. Mr. Long stated he felt that the bill did not include the crowd control volunteers. The discussion continued regarding who was covered in the bill and if the language was too vague.

Chairperson Brownlee stated they would work on the bill again in the meeting on Thursday or Friday of this week.

Chairperson Brownlee adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with the next meeting scheduled for February 7, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in room 123 S.

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