

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on March 10, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley- excused
Senator Chris Steineger- excused

Committee staff present:

Kristen Kellems, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jerry Henry, Representative, 63rd District
Dr. Susan Myers, Supt., USD #409
J. Russell Jennings, Commissioner, Juvenile Justice Authority, State of Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Teichman moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2009; February 26, 2009; March 2, 2009; March 3, 2009; March 4, 2009; March 5, 2009 and March 9, 2009. The motion was seconded by Senator Wagle. Motion carried on a voice vote.

SB 290 - Teachers at the school for the deaf and the school for the blind under the professional negotiation act

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, presented a brief review of **SB 290** which clarifies that teachers at the Kansas State School for the Deaf and the Kansas State School for the Blind are professional employees and allows them to negotiate with teachers under the Professional Negotiations Act.

Senator Vratil moved the committee recommend **SB 290** favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Hearing on HB 2001 - School districts; number of pupils in USD No. 409, Atchison

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, presented a summary of the provisions of **HB 2001**. This bill was introduced by Representative Henry. It relates to enrollment of certain pupils in USD 409, Atchison. The bill would provide that for school year 2009-10 the number of pupils enrolled in the district but housed and receiving educational services at the youth residential center (YRC) located on the grounds of the former Atchison juvenile correctional facility would be deemed equal to two times the licensed capacity of the former correctional facility. In all school years after 2009-10, a pupil housed and receiving educational services at the YRC would be counted as two pupils. All applicable pupil weightings under the school finance act would be assigned to these students. According to the fiscal, note, the bill would cost an additional \$151,928 in general state aid.

Jerry Henry, Representative, 63rd District, (Attachment 1) provided testimony in support of the proposed legislation. He pointed out the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) had suspended operations at the Atchison Juvenile Justice Correctional Facility in December, 2008. JJA has released a proposal requesting to re-purpose the Juvenile Justice Authority Facility into a Youth Residential Center II to serve 56 youth at the center. The establishment of a YRC in Atchison would require USD 409 to re-open a stand-alone school located on the campus.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 10, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

Dr. Susan Myers, Supt., USD #409, (Attachment 2) presented testimony in support of the legislation, comparing the proposed facility to that of the Judge James V. Riddel Boys Ranch in Wichita. This funding request would be identical to the Boys Ranch.

J. Russell Jennings, Commissioner, Juvenile Justice Authority, State of Kansas, (Attachment 3) testified in support of **HB 2001**. He stated that in response to the suspension of operations at the Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility as a juvenile correctional facility, a re-purposing plan for the facility to become a Youth Residential Center II was begun. JJA has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for operation of the former juvenile correctional facility as a YRC II. Three proposals were submitted for operation of the facility as a YRC II.

The proposals are under evaluation and JJA will be moving forward with negotiations for a contract as two of the three proposals meet the criteria as stated in the RFP and the stated costs are within a range the agency determined appropriate for consideration. They anticipate the negotiations will culminate in a contract being executed and operations commencing before July 1, 2009.

Following additional discussion, Chair Schodorf announced the Hearing on **HB 2001** would continue on March 11, 2009.

HB 2003 - Career technical education; funding formula; update in terminology

Kristen Kellems, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, presented a brief review of **HB 2003**. This proposed legislation amends various statutes relating to technical education with the goal of updating outdated language, repealing irrelevant statutes, and codifying proviso language.

Senator Teichman moved the committee recommend **HB 2003** favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Senator Umbarger. Motion carried on a voice vote.

HB 2197 - State educational institutions; admission standards

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, presented a summary of the provisions of **HB 2197**. Under the bill, a resident who graduated from a non-accredited school would qualify for admission if the applicant has a composite ACT score of not less than 21 points or upon reaching age 21. In addition, a non-resident who graduated from a non-accredited school would qualify for admission if the applicant has a composite ACT score of not less than 21 points. The bill creates separate categories, or windows, for freshman admissions, for in-state transfer students as well as for out-of-state transfer students. There would be a 10% window in each of these categories. Under subsection (f) the bill would authorize the Board of Regents to adopt standards for the admission of students which differ from the standards listed in subsection (a). These standards would not be effective until the year 2014.

Senator Umbarger moved the committee recommend **HB 2197** favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.