

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garry Boston at 1:30 p.m. on March 14, 2001 in Room 210 Memorial Hall

All members were present except: Representative Geraldine Flaharty, Excused
Representative Jonathan Wells, Excused

Committee staff present: Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statute's Office
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statute's Office
June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Steve Ryan, State Board of Mortuary Arts
Ben Coates, Mount Hope Cemetery
Richard Morrissey, Director, Local and Rural Health, KDHE
Dennis Allin, MD, Advisory Committee on Trauma, KDHE

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

The Chairperson opened the hearing on **SB 214- Regulation and licensing of crematories.**

Dr. Bill Wolff gave a briefing on **SB 214.**

Steve Ryan, State Board of Mortuary Arts, testified as a proponent to **SB 214**, stating this bill is based on existing cremation statutes from several states and with guidance from the Cremation Association of North America (CANA). The Mortuary Arts Board has met with the Kansas Funeral Directors Association (KFDA), and have worked together on the contents of this bill in an attempt to make the final product as fair and workable as possible. Crematories are not licensed or regulated in the state of Kansas. An amendment is suggested for New Section 8. (Attachments 1 & 2).

Ben Coates, Executive Director, Mount Hope Cemetery, testified in opposition of **SB 214**, stating they run a very nice cremation service and already follow most every new regulation proposed in **SB 214**. Mount Hope averages 50 per cremations a year which is a very popular service and also a source of important income. The cremation chamber is thoroughly cleaned out after every cremation and a staff member is regularly sent to training conventions sponsored by the Cremation Association of North America. With the rate of cremations rising in the United States it is understood how the State Board of Mortuary Arts feels there is the need to license crematories (Attachment 3).

Pam Scott, Executive Director, Kansas Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, provided written testimony in support of **SB 214**, stating crematories currently are not regulated in the state of Kansas. With the increase in the number of cremations occurring, the KFDA believes it is time to adopt comprehensive legislation regulating the operation of crematories in the state (Attachment 4).

The Chairperson closed the hearing on **SB 214.**

The Chairperson opened the hearing on **SB 239 - Kansas trauma system plan.**

Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes, gave a briefing on **SB 239**, amendment, and comparison of **SB 239** and proposed amendment (Attachments 5 & 6).

Richard Morrissey, Director, Office of Local and Rural Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, a proponent to **SB 239**, stated in 1994 KDHE, the Kansas Medical Society, and the Board of Emergency

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 210, Memorial Hall at 1:30 p.m. on March 14, 2001.

Medical Services formed a partnership (The Kansas EMS/Trauma Planning Project) and applied to the Kansas Health Foundation for funding to support development of a trauma plan for Kansas. The foundation awarded a three year grant and the partners formed a policy group composed of seventeen statewide organizations with an interest in traumas services.

The 1999 Kansas Legislature passed Substitute for **SB 106** creating the Advisory Committee on Trauma and directing the Secretary of Health and Environment to develop a statewide trauma system plan using the 1998 *Kansas EMS/Trauma System Plan* as a guide. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Trauma have been incorporated into **SB 239** (Attachment 7).

Dennis Allin, M.D., Advisory Committee on Trauma, testified in support of **SB 239**, state traumatic injuries are one of the leading cause of death and disability among Kansas's citizens. A trauma care system is a systematic approach to providing care to the injury patient. It is a network of relationships between Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers, regional emergency departments and tertiary referral facilities, designed to direct the trauma patient to the resources most appropriate to his/her care, based on the nature of the injury (Attachment 8).

The Chairperson stated we were running out of time and asked committee members if they could stay longer or if they had other commitments and the members indicated they had to leave. The Chairperson stated the hearing on **SB 239** would be continued on Thursday, March 15 and asked if the proponents would be able to return. Chris Collins, Director of Government Affairs, Associate General Counsel, Kansas Medical Society and David Lake, Administrator, Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services stated due to the time restraints they would submit only written testimony (Attachments 9 & 10). Terri Roberts, Executive Director, Kansas State Nurses Association, stated she would return on Thursday to testify.

Kansas Trauma Plan distributed by Advisory Committee on Trauma, KDHE is on file in the Chairpersons office (Attachment 11).

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. and the next meeting will be March 15.