

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Morris at 10:30 a.m. on March 12, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Christine Downey - Excused
Senator Tim Huelskamp - Excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Assistant to the Chairman
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Anthony Hensley
Representative Jim Garner
Ken Groetwiel, Director, Consumer Assistance Division, Kansas Insurance Department
Barbara Withee, Chair, AARP State Legislative Committee
Jim Snyder, Silver-Haired Legislature (written testimony)
Dennis Priest, Administrator, Program Administrator, Integrated Service Delivery Division,
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Others attending: See attached list

Bill Introduction

Senator Adkins moved, with a second by Senator Feleciano, to introduce a bill concerning social welfare; relating to medicaid reimbursement (1rs2315). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 589--Prescription drug costs, senior pharmacy assistance program benefits, public assistance eligibility threshold and senior health insurance counseling for Kansans, prescribing certain funding

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

Representative Jim Garner testified in support of **SB 589** (Attachment 1). In testimony, Representative Garner mentioned that the most unprompted, unsolicited concern expressed to him by the citizens he represents is the high cost of prescription drugs. He explained that under **SB 589** approximately 35,000 more Kansans would be covered annually under the program using existing, dedicated resources. Representative Garner further noted that the proposal does not spend money the state does not have, rather it uses the pharmacy trust fund for its intended purpose.

Senator Anthony Hensley testified in support of **SB 589**. Senator Hensley distributed the following information to the Committee:

- Kansas Senior Pharmacy Assistance Program by the Kansas Department on Aging (Attachment 2)

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- Kansas Intergovernmental Transfer Program, Department on Aging Estimate, Budget Division Estimate, and Aging Revenue Estimate-Governor's Spending Plan, FY 2002 and FY 2003 ([Attachment 3](#))
- Copy of a letter dated January 17, 2002, Senator Hensley wrote to Congressman Jim Ryun regarding the proposed enhancement of the Kansas Senior Pharmacy Assistance Program ([Attachment 4](#))
- Copy of a letter dated January 17, 2002, Senator Hensley wrote to Congressman Todd Tiahrt, regarding the proposed enhancement of the Kansas Senior Pharmacy Assistance Program ([Attachment 5](#))

Senator Hensley mentioned that he would like to see Congress step up and establish a program at the federal level, and absent that, he thought it time to help the people in Kansas.

Ken Grotewiel, Director, Consumer Assistance Division, Kansas Insurance Department, provided information to the Committee regarding the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas program (SHICK) and the help their SHICK volunteers provide seniors to help them pay for the cost of their prescription drugs ([Attachment 6](#)).

Barbara Withee, Chair, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) State Legislative Committee, testified in support of **SB 589** ([Attachment 7](#)). Ms. Withee mentioned that AARP supports efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable and available to Kansans and urges maintaining the balance of the intergovernmental transfer funds in the Seniors Trust Fund. She noted that in doing so, the Legislature can broaden the base of those served by the Seniors Pharmacy Assistance Program as passed by the 2000 Legislature. Ms. Withee also distributed copies of the AARP Public Policy Institute, FYI: The Cost of Prescription Drugs: Who Needs Help? ([Attachment 8](#)).

Jim Snyder, President, Kansas Council of the Silver Haired Legislators, submitted written testimony in support of **SB 589** ([Attachment 9](#)).

Dennis Priest, Program Administrator, Integrated Service Delivery Division, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, testified in opposition to **SB 589** ([Attachment 10](#)). Mr. Priest mentioned that they are testifying regarding the prescription bill deduction portion of the bill and would oppose the passage of this change. He explained that the bill would make changes to current financial eligibility rules for the primary assistance programs operated by the Department.

Committee questions and discussion followed. Chairman Morris thanked the conferees for their appearance before the Committee. There being no further conferees to come before the Committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 589**.

Subcommittee report on:

Kansas Department of Transportation ([Attachment 11](#))

Subcommittee Chairman Adkins reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendations for FY 2002.

Subcommittee Chairman Adkins reported that the Subcommittee concurs with the Governor's recommendation for FY 2003 with comments as listed in the subcommittee budget report.

Senator Feleciano presented the Minority Report to the Committee regarding the Department of Transportation Subcommittee budget report. Senator Feleciano moved, with a second by Senator Barone, to amend the subcommittee budget report to include the Minority Report (Attachment 12). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Staff distributed copies of a spreadsheet regarding the Comprehensive Transportation Program dated March 11, 2002, Kansas Legislative Research Department ([Attachment 13](#)).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Senator Adkins moved, with a second by Senator Salmans, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the Department of Transportation for the FY 2002 and FY 2003 budget as amended. Motion carried on a voice vote. Senator Feleciano requested to be recorded as voting "No" on the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2002.