

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Melvin Neufeld at 9:00 A.M. on March 22, 2006 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Jerry Henry- excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
 J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
 Becky Krahl, Legislative Research Department
 Matt Spurgin, Legislative Research Department
 Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department
 Susan Kannarr, Legislative Research Department
 Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
 Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
 Nikki Feuerborn, Administrative Assistant
 Shirley Jepson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Ray Merrick

Kris Kobach, Professor of Law, University of Missouri (Kansas City)

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Budget Committee Report on **SB 549**
- Attachment 2 Amendment to **SB 549**
- Attachment 3 Budget Committee Report on **HB 2730**
- Attachment 4 Testimony on **HB 2945** by Representative Merrick
- Attachment 5 Testimony on **HB 2945** by Kris Kobach

Discussion and Action on SB 549 - State library of Kansas board created; state library and advisory commission and Kansas library network board abolished.

Representative Hutchins, Chair of the Education Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on **SB 549** and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee report (Attachment 1). The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn.

Representative Hutchins moved for a substitute motion to adopt an amendment to **SB 549** to insert additional language on Page 11, Line 24 (Attachment 2). The motion was seconded by Representative Huy. Motion carried.

The Budget Committee noted that the proposed amendment pertains to the children's internet protection act and places the responsibility on the parent in determining if the minor under the age of 18 years of age may have access to the internet without use of internet filtering technology in a public library.

Representative Hutchins moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee report as amended and recommend **SB 549** as amended favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Huy. Motion carried.

Discussion and Action on HB 2730 - Kansas foster child educational assistance act.

Representative Landwehr, Chair of the Social Services Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on **HB 2730** and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee report (Attachment 3). The motion was seconded by Representative Bethell. Motion carried.

Responding to questions from the Committee, the Budget Committee noted that this bill provides

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assistance for those individuals who have aged out of foster care and do not have family or a support family. The legislation provides that the educational institution shall waive the tuition fees. Assistance with room and board, technical equipment and course required fees and books will be provided by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). The student is also required to work to help with the support. It was noted that at the present time, 80 percent of the tuition is paid by SRS and 20 percent is paid by the educational institution. The legislation contains a sunset of June 30, 2008, to allow for a review of the program. The Budget Committee indicated that they did not have strong opposition to the legislation from the Board of Regents.

Representative Landwehr moved to insert the language of **HB 2730** into **SB 85**, allow for technical corrections, recommend favorable for passage and report as **House Substitute for SB 85**. The motion was seconded by Representative Bethell. Motion carried.

Hearing on HB 2945 - Eligibility of certain aliens for state and local public benefits.

Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2945** addresses verification and eligibility for citizens and non-citizens for services, defined by federal statute as state and local public benefits. The bill sets forth that persons who are not citizens and are not legal residents cannot receive benefits except for some Medicaid benefits. Proof of eligibility is required to be presented at the time of the service. Provisions of the act shall be enforced without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity or national origin.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Representative Ray Merrick, who testified in support of **HB 2945** (Attachment 4). Representative Merrick stated that, during a recent survey of his constituents, the one issue raised most often, pertains to services provided by the state to illegal immigrants.

Responding to Committee questions, Representative Merrick noted that there are 45,000 illegal immigrants in the state of Kansas. He felt this is a homeland security issue because it is difficult to close the borders on possible terrorists making their way into the United States. Representative Merrick stated that this legislation is an attempt to ensure that State is in compliance with federal law.

The Chairman recognized Kris Kobach, Professor of Law, University of Missouri (Kansas City), who presented testimony in support of **HB 2945** (Attachment 5). Mr. Kobach explained that current federal law makes illegal immigrants ineligible for state and local public benefits. Mr. Kobach indicated that this legislation would save money for the State, stating that there are approximately 9,000 illegal immigrants in the K-12 education system within the State. Mr. Kobach noted that there are immigrants who are in the United States on work or school visas and who have access to public services.

Mr. Kobach stated that the Committee might consider amending **HB 2945** by adding the provisions in **HB 2850** concerning the entitlement to vote.

The hearing on HB 2945 will be continued.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be on "call of the Chair".

Melvin Neufeld, Chair