

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Dahl at 9:00 A.M. on January 26, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Patricia Kilpatrick- unexcused

Scott Schwab- excused

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Norm Furse, Office of Revisor of Statutes

June Evans, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Keri A. Kish, Staff Attorney, Kansas Insurance Department

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman asked if there were any members or anyone in the audience that wished to introduce bills.

Tom Whitaker, Kansas Motor Carriers Association, requested a bill be introduced to mirror federal law concerning the employment relationship of an owner-operator to a licensed motor carrier.

The Chairman stated, without objection, the request will become a committee bill.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2560 - Workers Compensation Fund, duties of commissioner of insurance.**

Staff gave a briefing on **HB 2560** stating the bill abolishes the workers compensation fund oversight committee. The commissioner of insurance annually shall report to the governor and the legislature the receipts and disbursements from the workers compensation fund during the preceding fiscal year. New paragraphs: (h) the commissioner of insurance shall make an annual report to the Legislative Coordinating Council, Senate committee on Commerce and House committee on Commerce and Labor during January of each year and (i) the Commissioner of Insurance, or the Commissioner's designee, shall provide any consulting actuarial firm contracting with the director of workers compensation or the Legislative Coordinating Council with such information or materials pertaining to the workers compensation fund deemed necessary by the actuarial firm for performing the requirements of any actuarial reviews of the workers compensation fund. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

Keri A. Kish, Staff Attorney, Kansas Insurance Department, testified as a proponent. She stated this bill amends K.S.A. 44-566a and repeals K.S.A. 46-2401, by abolishing the Kansas workers' compensation fund oversight committee and requiring the commissioner of insurance to submit a yearly report to the legislature regarding the Kansas workers' compensation fund. Currently, the Kansas Insurance Department voluntarily submits a report regarding the workers' compensation fund.

The Kansas Insurance Department is willing and ready to provide this mandatory report as would be required by this bill. The Department already submits this report on a voluntary basis (Attachment 1).

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2560**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be January 30, 2006.