

Approved: May 10, 2005
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:30 A.M. on March 3, 2005 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Donald Betts- excused

Committee staff present:
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Matt Spurgin, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Judy Bromich, Administrative Analyst
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Senator Jim Barnett
Karla Finnell, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
Lougene Marsh, Executive Director, Flint Hills Community Health Center, Emporia, Kansas
Marilyn Page, Executive Director, Marian Clinic
Dr. Howard Rodenberg, Director of Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
David C. Sanford, Graceland Health Clinic, Wichita, Kansas (written)
Krista Postai, Chief Operating Officer, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg, Kansas (written)

Others attending:
See attached list.

Copies of the Kansas Legislative Research Department Budget Analysis Report for FY 2005 and FY 2006 were available to the committee.

Subcommittee budget report on:

Governmental Ethics Commission (Attachment 1)

Subcommittee Chairwoman Carolyn McGinn reported that the subcommittee on the Governmental Ethics Commission concurs with the Governor's recommendation in FY 2005 with observations and concurs with the Governor's FY 2006 recommendations with adjustments and observations.

Senator McGinn moved, with a second by Senator Emler, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the Governmental Ethics Commission in FY 2005 and FY 2006. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chairman called the Committee's attention to discussion of:

SB 87--Wildlife and parks, outdoor recreation registration fee

Staff gave an overview of the bill.

There was committee discussion. Chairman Umbarger suggested, and the Committee discussed, a proposed amendment to the bill that would eliminate the refund and reduce a proposed Annual Outdoor Recreation Registration Fee to \$4.00. Senator Steineger moved, with a second by Senator Kelly, to amend SB 87 to

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eliminate the refund proposal, reduce the Annual Outdoor Recreation Registration Fee from \$5.00 to \$4.00, and correlate all percentages regarding tags. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Teichman moved, with a second by Senator Steineger, to report **SB 87** favorably as amended. Motion carried on a roll call vote. Senator Emler requested to explain his vote and be recorded that he voted "Aye" to only move the bill out of committee, and will be a "No" unless the fee is made refundable. Senator Vicki Schmidt also requested to explain her vote and be recorded in that she only voted "Aye" to move the bill out of committee so it would go to the Senate for debate. Senator McGinn asked to be recorded that she voted "Aye" on the bill only to move the bill out of committee and explained that she was looking forward to having the discussion on the bill in the Senate.

Chairman Umbarger opened the public hearing on:

SB 84--Appropriations for FY 2006 for the department of health and environment, 340B federal drug pricing program

Staff briefed the committee on the bill.

Senator Jim Barnett testified in support of **SB 84** (Attachment 2). Senator Barnett explained that the bill provides an affordable method for the State of Kansas of provide needed medicines to the uninsured and poor. He noted, in part, **SB 84** takes advantage of federal laws that allow the State of Kansas to obtain medicines at a significantly discounted price.

Karla Finnell, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, spoke in favor of **SB 84** (Attachment 3). Ms. Finnell mentioned that there are between 280,000 to 300,000 Kansas that are uninsured. She explained that the intent of the bill is to increase access to low-cost pharmaceuticals for the most vulnerable uninsured Kansans living in poverty or near poverty. Increased access to prescriptions will be accomplished by utilizing the 340B prescription drug program through the Public Health Service Act and by increasing access to prescriptions assistance programs.

Lougene Marsh, Executive Director, Flint Hills Community Health Center, Emporia, Kansas, testified in support of **SB 84** (Attachment 4). Ms. Marsh explained that for many of their patients, the missing link in their provision of health services is access to pharmaceutical products. She provided data that described the unmet need of their patient population for access to affordable pharmaceuticals, a gap that can be filled through the 340B program, and the importance of **SB 84** to advancing the implementation of 340B programs across the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) network.

Marilyn Page, Executive Director, Marian Clinic, Topeka, Kansas, spoke in support of **SB 84** (Attachment 5), and provided a summary of operations.

Dr. Howard Rodenberg, Director of Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), testified as neutral on **SB 84** (Attachment 6). Dr. Rodenburg mentioned that KDHE supports the central purpose of the bill, to improve access to prescription medication for low-income, uninsured and underserved Kansans. He noted that access to pharmaceutical drugs is a key component of basic health care. In his written testimony, Dr. Rodenburg provided an overview of prescription support proposed in **SB 84**. Dr. Rodenburg suggested an amendment to the bill (detailed in his written testimony) for clarity and recommended wording. In closing, he mentioned that the most significant concern for the Agency is the lack of an identifiable funding source.

Written testimony was submitted on **SB 84** by David C. Sanford, Health Clinic, A Health Ministry of the united Methodist Church, Kansas West Conference, Wichita, Kansas (Attachment 7) and Krista Postai, Chief Operating Officer, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg, Kansas (Attachment 8).

There being no further conferees to appear before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 84**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2005.