

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Brunk at 9:05 A.M. on March 06, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Brenda Landwehr- excused
Broderick Henderson- excused
Jan Pauls- excused
Kasha Kelley- excused
Ronnie Metsker- excused

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Duston Slinkard, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Stephen Bainum, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

David Brennan, Director, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman advised the committee that **SB 235 - Employment security law exclusions from definition of employment** had been referred to the Advisory Council and that it would be put back on the agenda for action on Thursday, March 8th.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 288 - Reports on workforce development activities.** There was no one signed up to testify so the Chairman asked the revisor, Duston Slinkard, to explain the bill.

Duston pointed out that the new language was in subsection (b) beginning with line number 24 of the bill and provides that a monitoring unit of the division of workforce development submit an annual report by January 15th to the senate commerce committee and the house committee on economic development and tourism and the joint committee on economic development, detailing their monitoring activities for the past year, any problems with workforce development activities and any other matters they think should be brought before those committees. The fiscal note indicated that they could generate that report with existing staff resources.

Representative Goico noted that they had a written report from David Brennan of the Department of Commerce.

David Brennan, Director, Kansas Department of Commerce testified as a proponent of **SB 288 (Attachment 1)**. He indicated that the Department was supportive of the bill.

Representative Huntington asked if it had passed the Senate. David said that it had. Did you testify? David said there was a handout for the committee. Do you find the bill necessary? David said they were supportive of sharing that information with anyone who needed it.

The Chairman advised the committee that it passed the Senate 40 to 0.

Representative Goico asked what were the positive things the bill would accomplish and how would it benefit the State. David said the programs involved were federally funded and in the last couple of years the State has shown an interest in how the program money is being spent, how the programs are operated and how the standards are being meant and that another report to the oversight committee could be beneficial to the program and to the Legislature. Representative Goico said that it would help to inform the public and make people aware of the programs and make them available to more people. David said hopefully that would be the case.

Representative Sharp asked if we need this bill in order for the Department to do that. David said that the bill makes more information available. Obviously the Department is willing to share the

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information with anyone who asks for it. The Department is supportive in supplying the type of information that the legislature chooses to have.

Representative Grange agreed with Representative Sharp and asked why the Department did not just give the information on January 15th.

Representative Huntington asked if when the ERO took workforce development out of the Department of Labor and moved it to the Department of Commerce did the Department of Commerce name someone to be in charge of workforce development. David said that was before his time but he thought there was a four person group that was named for workforce development at that time.

Representative Grant asked why this could not have been done under rules and regulations. David said that the Department of Commerce did not propose the legislation, they are here only to support it.

Representative Ruff said she was not under the impression that the Department sought to share this information with the legislature unless they were told to do so. David said that the monitoring unit develops the reports that are available. They are more than happy to come over and speak in front of any committee. So they are supportive of the bill. Representative Ruff said that they did not ask for the bill and asked if they were not sure who did. David replied no.

Representative Sharp mentioned that Jim Zehr of the Silver Haired Legislators was also a proponent of the bill and was very active in the development of this bill.

Representative Goico commented that with this bill the legislature was helping the Department accomplish its job. David said that the requirements for compliance involved are in the federal workforce investment law so the unit is developing the reports anyway. The bill is saying that it is to report to certain committees.

Representative Gordon said that her committee on economic development worked hard last year to try to implement some workforce programs. Representative Sharp's comment about the Silver Haired Legislators led her to believe that this was a followup to that work. She said that it is not a bad thing to have reporting on workforce development. Since we are interested in what is happening in workforce development we would benefit from an annual report.

The Chairman asked if there were any other proponents, opponents or neutral conferees on this bill. There being none the hearing was closed on **SB 288**.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:25 A.M.