Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:45 a.m. on January 26, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator David Adkins - excused

Senator Jim Barone - excused Senator Dave Jackson - excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department Debra Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department Amory Lovin, Kansas Legislative Research Department Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor, Revisor of Statutes Office Julie Weber, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Justice Edward Larson, Kansas Supreme Court Terry Humphrey, Kansas Trial Lawyers Ed Collister, Practicing Attorney, Lawrence Kathy Porter, Office of Judicial Administration

Others attending: See attached guest list

Bill Introductions

Senator Jordan moved, with a second by Senator Schodorf, to introduce two bills (1rs0222) concerning wildlife and parks relating to certain fees and (1rs0025) concerning fishing licenses. Motion carried by a voice vote.

The Chairman opened the public hearing on:

SB 49 – Submittance of judicial branch budget to the legislature without executive branch revision

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill (Attachment 1). Committee questions and discussion followed.

Proponents:

Chairman Morris welcomed Justice Edward Larson, Kansas Supreme Court, Hays, Kansas, who spoke in support of <u>SB 49</u>. (No written testimony was submitted.) Justice Larson spoke to the Committee regarding the role of departmental justice toward the judicial branch in the budget process. He noted that the judicial branch feels that its budget has been reduced as far as possible before it is approved by the Supreme Court and the additional review by the staff of the executive branch is not necessary. The Chairman thanked Justice Larson for his appearance before the Committee.

Chairman Morris welcomed Terry L. Humphrey, Executive Director, Kansas Trial Lawyers Association (<u>Attachment 2</u>). Ms. Humphrey mentioned that the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association supports <u>SB 49</u> which would allow the judicial branch to submit its annual budget directly to the Kansas Legislature for consideration. The Chairman thanked Ms. Humphrey for appearing before the Committee.

Chairman Morris welcomed Edward G. Collister, Jr., practicing attorney, Lawrence, Kansas (<u>Attachment 3</u>). Mr. Collister urged approval of <u>SB 49</u>. The Chairman thanked Mr. Collister for appearing before the Committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Chairman Morris welcomed Kathy Porter, Office of Judicial Administration (<u>Attachment 4</u>). Ms. Porter mentioned that <u>SB 49</u> would delete from current law the Director of the Budget's authority to review and make recommendations for proposed changes in the judicial branch budget. This would allow the judicial branch budget to be presented directly to the Legislature without the budget cuts traditionally made by the Division of the Budget and the Governor. The Chairman thanked Ms. Porter for her appearance before the Committee.

Written testimony was received from Jill Docking, Co-Chairperson, Kansas Citizens' Justice Initiative, in support of **SB 49** (Attachment 5).

Senator Morris mentioned that the public hearing on <u>SB 49</u> will continue during the week of January 31, 2001.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2001.