

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 A.M. on January 17, 2007 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
David Wysong- unexcused

Committee staff present:
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Rae Ann Davis, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairperson Brownlee introduced Rae Ann Davis from the Kansas Department of Commerce to give a response to the Post Audit Report on Workforce Development. Ms. Davis presented written testimony from Secretary Fricke, Department of Commerce that was given before the Joint Committee on Economic Development dated October 12, 2006. (Attachment 1) Ms. Davis stated she would like to update the Committee on Local Area III and V and stated Local Area III has obtained another administrative entity and that Local Area V was looking for another administrative entity also.

Senator Jordan asked Ms. Davis to give an update on the Governor's proposal regarding workforce development. Ms. Davis stated the Governors On-Track Proposal identifies the following sectors for priority:

- Aviation
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Communication
- Health Care
- Energy
- Biosciences with emphasis on animal health
- Military
- Teachers specifically math, science and special education teachers

Ms. Davis stated On -Track is a program that will focus on:

- Recruiting workers from other states and training workers already in the state by partnering with Kansas employers.
- The program promotes employer based child care.
- They will also focus on increasing the skill level of the Kansas workforce by offering training programs which will also promote good work ethic.

Questions and answers followed. Senator Jordan requested that Ms. Davis get copies to the Committee of the information she was referring to and she stated she would.

Senator Brownlee introduced Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research, to review the federal Real ID Act of 2005 and the federal Basic Pilot Program. (Attachment 2) Ms. Sparks stated the state has almost no responsibility when it comes to employment of illegal immigrants. Currently, under Kansas statutes, there are no requirements for employment eligibility verification. The responsibility for verification is under the federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. The federal act requires employers to have in their job records and a completed I-9 , for each employee, including U.S. citizens, hired after November 6, 1986. Ms. Sparks reviewed her report on immigration issues.

Questions and answers followed. Upon the conclusion, the meeting was adjourned, with the next meeting scheduled for tomorrow, January 18th at 8:30 a.m. in room 123S.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Commerce Committee at 8:30 A.M. on January 17, 2007 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.