

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Melvin Neufeld at 9:00 A.M. on January 11, 2006, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative Pottorff- excused

Committee staff present:
Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Becky Krahl, Legislative Research Department
Matt Spurgin, Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department
Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Leah Robinson, Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Administrative Assistant
Shirley Jepson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairman Neufeld introduced and welcomed the new Committee members - Representative Bonnie Huy, Representative Lee Tafanelli and Representative Kevin Yoder.

J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department, introduced the Fiscal Analyst Staff and distributed a listing of Fiscal Analyst assignments (Attachment 1). Chairman Neufeld introduced his personal staff.

A copy of the Committee rules was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 2). Deadlines for Budget Committee reports were distributed to the Committee (Attachment 3). The Chair emphasized the importance of staying on schedule and meeting the deadlines for Budget Committee reports.

Representative Feuerborn introduced legislation concerning the Governor's budget and other bills to implement the Governor's budget recommendations. The motion was seconded by Representative Sharp. Motion carried.

Representative Hutchins introduced legislation to repeal the Higher Ed in-state tuition and fees for undocumented aliens. The motion was seconded by Representative Weber. Motion carried.

Representative Feuerborn introduced legislation pertaining to motor vehicles - personal information requirements for certain documentation. The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

Representative Powell introduced legislation concerning stream-flow gauging for the Smoky Hill River. The motion was seconded by Representative McLeland. Motion carried.

Chairman Neufeld introduced legislation pertaining to the baseline budget appropriation bill for FY

CONTINUATION SHEET

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2007. The motion was seconded by Representative Landwehr. Motion carried.

Chairman Neufeld distributed and discussed information titled "A Legislator's Guide to Using Performance Information" prepared by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Urban Institute, pertaining to the basic questions for legislators to ask agencies in budget and program review hearings (Attachment 4).

An agenda for the tour of the National Institute of Aviation Research Center (NIAR) at Wichita State University and the Challenger Center at Wellington on Thursday, January 12, was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 5). It was noted that some members of the Committee could not attend because of prior commitments. Representative Schwartz requested an overview of the tour for those members not able to attend.

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department, reviewed the status of the State General Fund (SGF) including actual FY 2005 SGF receipts and expenditures; Consensus Revenue Estimating Group, FY 2006 profile expenditure adjustments; and FY 2007 profile expenditure adjustments (Attachment 6). Mr. Conroy stated that receipts were \$47.5 million above the FY2005 estimate and shows strength in the economy particularly in individual income tax and corporate income tax. It is anticipated that this strength will continue; however, it is not known what impact increased energy costs will have on the economy. Responding to a question from the Committee, Mr. Conroy noted that home heating fuel is exempt from state sales tax. Mr. Conroy stated that smaller increases are expected in FY 2007 because of a slower growth rate in the economy. He also reminded the Committee that a portion of sales tax receipts for FY 2007 will be deposited directly to the State Highway Fund to replace funds borrowed from that fund and directed to the SGF by earlier legislation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m. On January 12, 2006, the Committee will tour the National Institute of Aviation Research in Wichita and the Challenger Learning Center in Wellington. The next scheduled meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on January 19, 2006.

Melvin Neufeld, Chairman