

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Edmonds at 1:30 P.M. on January 18, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Don Myers- excused
Representative Kenny Wilk- excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office
Carol Doel, Committee Secretary

Conferees:

Representative Bonnie Huy
Representative Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Others attending:

See attached list

Chairman Edmonds opened the floor for introduction of bills and recognized Representative Dillmore who requested the introduction of a bill regarding crimes and punishment dealing with sexual activity. With no objections this was accepted for introduction.

Representative Bonnie Huy addressed the committee with a briefing on ***SB 62*** a bill regarding grandparents as foster parents program. Representative Huy submitted a copy of a balloon to ***SB 62*** for committee review. She related that this bill has bipartisan and SRS support and is a bill that is definitely for the children.

It lowers the eligible age from 60 to 50, eliminates the requirement to participate in a full blown training program. Representative Huy explained that basically the bill establishes a program to assist grandparents or other qualifying relatives who have ongoing custody of children. The annual household income will be less than 100% of the federal poverty level. The parents of the children may not live in the same household. Representative Huy further explained the requirements for eligibility to the program. (Attachment 1)

The Committee requested that Staff address some of their question regarding this bill such as:

- Do grandparents have standing by virtue of participating in the program? What impact would the program have if parents have named someone other than grandparents as guardians in the event of the parents' deaths?
- Who will decide between maternal and paternal grandparents if there is a conflict?
- Is the \$200 obtained through this program income for tax purposes? What about for purposes of obtaining other benefits such as food stamps, etc?
- What benefits can grandparents rearing grandchildren quality for today without this bill?
- Does a grandparent's health factor enter into a determination of fitness? Is there a threshold? If so, who will decide what is appropriate.?
- Why did the program remove the TANF piece of original legislation?
- Are background checks required?
- Why set the minimum age at 50 years old?
- Eligibility for this program is 100% (reduced from 130%) of poverty level. What are the percentages required to qualify for other programs such as food stamps or Health Wave?

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- What is the cost of a child in foster care? Why doesn't the fiscal note take into consideration the savings, including savings in administrative costs, by placing a child with grandparents?
- How does the current foster care program fit with this bill?
- What effect does this bill have on TANF?

Representative Faust-Goudeau stood before the committee in support of **SB 62**. (No Testimony)

Chairman Edmonds suggested that Representative Huy and Representative Gaust-Goudeau meet outside the committee to discuss that differences and similarities between **HB 2410** and **SB 62** to see if it would be necessary to have a hearing on **HB 2410** or if **SB 62** substantially replaces it with a report back to the Chairman.

Representative Brunk made a motion to adopt the minutes of January 10th and January 12th as read. Representative Siegfried seconded the motion. Minutes were adopted.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.