

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenny Wilk at 9:05 a.m. on March 1, 2001, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Pottorff

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research
Rae Anne Davis, Legislative Research
Amy Kramer, Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Tom Severn, Legislative Research
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Jim Garner
Greg Allen, Friends of Free State Capitol
Dr. Ramon Powers, Kansas Historical Society
Tom Day, Kansas Corporation Commission
Ken Peterson, Kansas Petroleum Council
Bob Krehbiel, KIOGA
Representative Ethel Peterson, Inter-agency Coordinating
Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services
Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood
Developmental Services
Ellen Mellard, Infant Toddler Services, Jefferson and
Atchison Counties
Juli Graffeo, Infant toddler, SE Kansas
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee County Infant/Toddler Services
Glenda Bower, Infant-Toddler Program, Capper Foundation
Lorraine Bockorny, Rainbows United, Inc.
Tom Laing, InterHab

Others attending: See Attached

Representative Wilk proposed the introduction of legislation at the request of the Department of Administration regarding the filing date for State's annual financial report. Motion was seconded by Representative Neufeld. Motion carried.

Representative Wilk proposed the introduction of legislation at the request of the Department of Administration regarding canteen, benefit, work therapy and key deposit funds. Motion was seconded by Representative Neufeld. Motion carried.

Representative Wilk proposed the introduction of legislation at the request of the Department of Administration regarding travel reimbursement and subsistence allowance for state employees. Motion was seconded by Representative Neufeld. Motion carried.

Representative Kline proposed the introduction of legislation regarding the Civil Service Act which would place KBI Tech officers in unclassified service. Motion was seconded by Representative Nichols. Motion carried.

Representative Wilk proposed the introduction of legislation regarding the Kansas Police and Firemen election from KPERS for the Department of Correction "security officers." Motion was seconded by Representative Neufeld. Motion carried.

Representative Nichols proposed the introduction of legislation regarding the Child Welfare Reform Act relating to SRS foster care, adoption and family preservation imposing duties and accountability. Motion was seconded by

Representative Landwehr. Motion carried.

Representative Nichols proposed the introduction of legislation regarding the Child Welfare Reform Act also relating to SRS foster care, adoption, and family preservation, emphasizing accountability. Motion was seconded by Representative Landwehr. Motion carried.

Representative Nichols proposed the introduction of legislation regarding the Kansas Skills for Successful Schools program. Motion was seconded by Representative Landwehr. Motion carried.

Hearing on HB 2387 – Civil rights history task force

Representative Garner presented testimony in support of the establishment for a civil rights history task force appointed by different interests including legislative leadership, the Governor, the State Historical Society, and the Board of Regents (Attachment 1).

Greg Allen, President of the Friends of the Free State Capitol, shared the history of the Friends involvement with Constitution Hall and the first State Capitol (Attachment 2).

Dr. Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, reviewed a number of programs the Historical Society sponsors with a civil rights theme (Attachment 3).

As there were no opponents to the bill, Chairman Wilk declared the hearing on **HB 2387** closed.

Hearing on HB 2524 – Abandoned oil and gas well fund, Kansas Corporation Commission

Tom Severn, Legislative Research Department, explained the bill which would provide certain funding for the Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Fund from July 1, 2002, to July 1, 2009 (Attachment 4).

Tom Day, Kansas Corporation Commission, presented testimony in support of the bill which would extend the fund which addresses the problem of both abandoned oil and gas wells and exploration and production related contamination sites (Attachment 5).

Mr. Day responded to questions regarding responsibility of the land owner for the plugging and capping of oil and gas wells. Many of these wells are very old and the original owners are no longer alive nor are the owners of the mineral rights at that time. The possibility of the state plugging and capping the wells and then placing a lien on the property which would be paid at the time of the property sale. At this time the owners of the property receive a tax credit when they plug or cap the wells themselves. Many of the existing wells are very dangerous in that when one well is capped, it can cause as many as 40 others to explode. Many of the casings have been cut below ground level, were inappropriately plugged with mud and are very dangerous to not only the environment but water resources as well.

Ken Peterson spoke in support of the bill on behalf of the Kansas Petroleum Council, the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association, and the Eastern Kansas Oil and Gas Association (Attachment 6). He reminded the Committee that the existing conditions of the abandoned oil and gas wells started occurring before regulatory measures were put into effect and the problem could not be solved overnight.

Bob Krehbiel, KIOGA, stated he was not aware of any wells on the abandoned well list which would be available for the CO₂ project.

There were no opponents to the bill and Chairman Wilk declared the hearing on **HB 2524** closed.

Hearing on HB 2522 – Transferring infants and toddlers program from authority of Kansas Department of Health and Environment to Board of Education

Rae Ann Davis, Legislative Research Department, explained the bill which would transfer the authority of the Infants and Toddlers Program to the Board of Education along with the transfer of certain FTE's and their salaries, for a savings of \$164,000 to the program.

Representative Ethel Peterson presented testimony from her role as an appointed member of the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services (Attachment 7). She suggested the Committee request an interim committee study this issue with adequate hearings prior to making major changes in the program.

Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services, presented informational testimony on the proposed designation of a lead agency for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([Attachment 8](#)). He recommended a careful review of the potential impact on children and families before any changes in a successful program are made. Mr. Bowman reminded the Committee that effective, efficient, collaborative, and family-centered services to young children with disabilities and their families must remain the cornerstone from which any decision is made.

Ellen Mellard, Coordinator of the Infant-Toddler Services for Jefferson and most of Atchison County, offered testimony in favor of the suggested transfer of authority to the Board of Education ([Attachment 9](#)). KSDE has a vested interest in reducing the effects of disability in a child's first three years so that children will need less or no services at age three, thus reducing the need for special education as well as knowing which of those children are at transition.

Juli Graffeo, Speech-Language Pathologist and Program Coordinator for the Infant Toddler program for 11 counties in southeast Kansas, reminded the Committee of the strong history of support for infant/toddler services by the Department of Education ([Attachment 10](#)).

Written testimony in support of the proposed transfer was provided by Phil Rust, REACH Preschool in Cowley County ([Attachment 11](#)).

Kathy Johnson, Coordinator for Shawnee County Infant Toddler Services, spoke in opposition to the bill because it threatens the collaborative nature of their services and their largest funding source, categorical aid ([Attachment 12](#)). They have not been able to access this funding source through any local school district because they are not required to flow through this funding. United Way and Topeka Association of Retarded Citizens are also major funding areas which would be diminished.

Glenda Bower, Infant-Toddler Program of The Capper Foundation, presented testimony in opposition to the proposed transfer of authority ([Attachment 13](#)). The Capper Foundation is a private, not for profit organization and are largely supported by private donations which has allowed support for the Infant-Toddler program well beyond what is received from the Part C grant and categorical aid.

Lorraine Bockorny, Executive Director of Rainbows United, Inc., Sedgwick & Butler County Lead/Fiscal Agent Infant Toddler Services, reminded the Committee of the successes KDHE has had as the lead agency for the Infant/Toddler program ([Attachment 14](#)). She urged caution in transferring the authority for the program to the Department of Education as they could be perceived as another "let the schools handle it" excuse rather than this being a more locally handled project which has drawn strong community support.

Mrs. Bockorny presented the Committee with testimonial letters from the following parents and professionals in opposition to the proposed transfer of authority:

Vanessa R. Lohf , Connecting Point, 340 South Broadway, Wichita, Kansas 67202 ([Attachment 15](#))

Margaret Vorhees, The Boeing Company, Company Offices Internal Audit, Wichita ([Attachment 16](#)).

Maureen Hofrenning ([Attachment 17](#))

Peter and Julie Crooks, 3750 S Dugan, Wichita, Kansas 67215 ([Attachment 18](#)).

Crista Allen ([Attachment 19](#))

Tom Laing, Executive Director of InterHab, recommended that the bill not be adopted as local funding would be jeopardized ([Attachment 20](#)).

Chairman Wilk declared the hearing closed on **HB 2522**.

The Committee encouraged those persons who work at the local level in such programs as the Infants and Toddlers to make suggestions how collaboration with state agencies could be improved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2001.

