

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Corbin at 10:40 a.m. on February 14, 2003, in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Allen, Goodwin, and Pugh

Committee staff present: Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Others attending: See attached list.

Senator Corbin called the Committee's attention to the minutes of the February 12 meeting. Senator Clark moved to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2003, meeting, seconded by Senator Donovan. The motion carried.

SB 162—Reauthorization of school district ad valorem tax levy and exemption

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in support of **SB 162**, which would extend the statewide school district mill levy through 2005 at the current level of 20 mills, with the current \$20,000 residential exemption. He noted that passage of the bill is assumed in the Governor's budget recommendations for FY 2004 and assumed in projections for FY 2005. He went on to say that the quality of the Kansas school system cannot be sustained in future years if funding is kept at current levels. For the Committee's information, he called attention to a summary of costs school districts will face in the immediate future. The Association is concerned that schools are being forced to compete with other state responsibilities; therefore, the Association supports an increase in taxes to adequately fund education as well as other critical programs. He noted that the alternative to increased state funding for schools is to pass the tax increase responsibility to local school districts and, ultimately, to close schools and fire educators. In his opinion, the consequences of these actions outweigh the arguments against a general tax increase at the state level. (Attachment 1)

There being no others wishing to testify, the hearing on **SB 162** was closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2003.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE at 10:40 a.m. on 10:40,
in Room 519-S of the Capitol.