

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 A.M. on March 20, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Jim Barone- excused

Committee staff present:
Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Secretary David Kerr, Department of Commerce
Tracy Taylor, KTEC

Others attending:
See attached list.

To read testimony submitted by conferees go to
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/government/KansasSenateCommerceCommittee>.

HB 2315--Home inspectors competency and financial responsibility

Chairperson Brownlee called the Committee's attention to **HB 2315** and asked the Committee's wishes on putting the home inspectors under the Board of Technical Professionals instead of creating a new board. The Committee agreed and the discussion continued regarding the two amendments which were offered during the hearing one being that a high school education be required and Chairperson Brownlee stated she felt in the amendment there was a grandfathered on their experience. The amount of liability insurance required was also discussed. Chairperson Brownlee asked that staff to do a balloon with all the amendments discussed and they would finalize it on Tuesday morning.

Chairperson Brownlee introduced Tracy Taylor, KTEC to give an update on the Kansas Angel Tax Credit Program. Mr. Taylor presented written copy (Attachment 1) which can be found in its entirety on the link shown above.

A short discussion followed and it was noted that dooph.com, which appears on the 2007 tax credits, is a website to get coupons.

Upon the conclusion of Mr. Taylor's update, Chairperson Brownlee introduced Secretary Kerr, Department of Commerce, to give an overview of the 2007 STAR bond projects and an update of prior year STAR bond applications and turned the Chair over to Senator Jordan. Secretary Kerr presented written copy (Attachment 2) which can be found in its entirety on the link shown above.

Upon the conclusion of Secretary Kerr's overview and update, there was discussion regarding several of the existing STAR bond projects. Senator Reitz presented questions from Dr. Darling, retired professor, K-State University. One question was "can the State afford more Star Bonds". Secretary Kerr stated yes the state can afford more STAR bond projects. Secretary Kerr stated if the project is able to pay the STAR bonds back the project is considered successful. He stated there is only one project that is not generating enough money to pay the bonds.

Chairperson Jordan called the Committee's attention to the handouts from the Department of Commerce listing Fund descriptions relating to the Post Audit on Economic Development in the state of Kansas (Attachment 3) and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with the next meeting being scheduled for March 25, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in room 123 S.