



SouthDakota

Legislative Research Council

MINUTES

Joint Interim

Committee on Appropriations

Senator Deb Peters, Co-Chair
Representative Fred Romkema, Co-Chair

Fourth Meeting
2014 Interim
December 2, 2014

LCR 1 & 2
State Capitol Building
Pierre, South Dakota

The fourth meeting of the Joint Interim Committee on Appropriations for 2014 was called to order by the lead Co-Chair, **Senator Deb Peters**, at 2:35 p.m. (CDT) in Legislative Conference Rooms 1 & 2 of the State Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota.

A quorum was determined with the following members answering the roll call: Senator Deb Peters, Co-Chair; Representative Fred Romkema, Co-Chair; Senators Phyllis Heineman, Al Novstrup, Alan Solano, Larry Tidemann, and Jim White; and Representatives Jim Bolin, Lance Carson, Dan Dryden, Don Haggar, Spence Hawley, Mark Mickelson, and Dick Werner. Excused were Senators Tom Jones, Billie Sutton, and Bill Van Gerpen, and Representative Susan Wismer.

Staff members present included Annie Mehlhaff, Chief Fiscal Analyst; Aaron Olson, Principal Fiscal Analyst; Denice Houlette, Senior Fiscal Analyst; Jason Simmons, Senior Fiscal Analyst; Stephanie Gruba, Fiscal Analyst; and Cindy Tryon, Senior Secretary.

NOTE: For purpose of continuity, the following minutes are not necessarily in chronological order. Also, all referenced documents distributed at the meeting are attached to the original minutes on file in the Legislative Research Council office. This meeting was web cast live. The archived web cast is available at the LRC web site at <http://legis.sd.gov>.

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SENATOR TIDEMANN, SECONDED BY REPRESENTATIVE CARSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2014. Motion prevailed on a voice vote.

Higher Education Tuition Freeze

Dr. Jack Warner, Executive Director, SD Board of Regents, distributed a document summarizing the benefits of the FY2015 tuition freeze and detailing the original request for a FY2016 tuition freeze (**Document #1**).

Dr. Warner reported that the FY15 tuition freeze helped stabilize South Dakota's position in tuition rate comparisons on a national level. While enrollment in higher education institutions throughout the Midwest is declining, enrollment in South Dakota institutions has remained level, due in part to the tuition freeze.

Although the Governor did not include a tuition freeze in his FY16 budget recommendation, the request for a tuition freeze in FY16 was contained in the Board of Regents budget request.

Committee Discussion

Senator Deb Peters distributed two possible versions for the 2015 Session schedule for the Joint Committee on Appropriations (**Document #2**). Option 1 is based on the schedule used in 2014 that

included subcommittees hearing agency briefings. Option 2 eliminates the subcommittees and the full Joint Committee would hear all agency briefings.

Ms. Annie Mehlhaff, Chief Fiscal Officer, explained that eliminating the subcommittees would mean that agency briefings would continue beyond crossover day.

Representative Fred Romkema pointed out that the only thing keeping the committee from conducting hearings after cross over day is tradition. Representative Romkema said that there is a value for every member to hear from the agencies and he would prefer to break from tradition and select Option 2.

Senator Peters agreed and the Joint Committee will not break into subcommittees for the 2015 Legislative Session.

Senator Peters distributed a draft copy of the agency budget hearing letter that Ms. Mehlhaff had revised, adding requests for more information on the federal dollars used by the agency (**Document #3**). Ms. Mehlhaff said that the fiscal staff plans to get the agency letters out within the next two weeks.

Senator Larry Tidemann asked that a column be added to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards by Federal Department that tells the amount of the state match. Senator Tidemann added that the Government Operations and Audit Committee has been working with some of the agencies on performance indicators and suggested that those agencies be highlighted.

Senator Phyllis Heineman asked that a question be added to the letter asking what the agencies major goals are. Senator Heineman said that it would be helpful to see four or five major goals that the agency is working toward. Another suggestion was made to add a section on what measures the agency has set regarding each goal.

Senator Peters explained that the purpose of these letters is to help guide the agencies to giving the information the committee wants rather than the committee receiving information the agency chooses to present.

Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality Updated Results

Ms. Doneen Hollingsworth, Secretary, Department of Health, distributed a PowerPoint presentation, "*South Dakota Infant Mortality Initiative*" (**Document #4**).

Infant mortality is an issue Governor Daugaard chose to aggressively address. The Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality, chaired by First Lady Linda Daugaard, held its first meeting on June 20, 2011. The task force continues to meet once a year and is meeting on December 3, 2014, in Sioux Falls.

The infant mortality rate was 8.6 per 1,000 live births in 2012 and decreased to 6.5 per 1,000 live births in 2013. There were a total of 80 infant deaths in South Dakota in 2013. Secretary Hollingsworth predicted that the 2014 rate should be about the same as 2013.

According to the charts found in the PowerPoint presentation, the infant mortality rate is twice as high on the reservations as off the reservations. In 2013, there were 11.2 deaths per 1,000 live births of Native American babies and 5.3 deaths per 1,000 live births for white babies. These numbers are based on the residency of the mother.

The Department of Health is looking closely at what Alaska is doing to battle infant mortality, as Alaska had one of the worst rates several years ago, but was able to greatly reduce the infant mortality rate to the lowest in the nation.

The South Dakota Department of Health is focusing on safe sleep and smoking cessation campaigns to help reduce infant mortality rates. South Dakota has one of the highest rates of mothers who smoke while pregnant.

More information on infant mortality rates in South Dakota can be found on the Department of Health's website.

Adjourn

REPRESENTATIVE CARSON MOVED, SECONDED BY SENATOR TIDEMANN, TO ADJOURN. The motion prevailed unanimously on a voice vote.

The Committee adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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