

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 9:38 a.m. on February 10, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Estelle Montgomery, Legislative Research Department
Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Carol Williams, Executive Director, Governmental Ethics Commission
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Elections and Legislative Matters

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and opened the hearing on **SB 102 - Governmental ethics commission; candidate, lobbyist fee increases**. Staff explained the budget for the Commission. **SB 102** would increase certain fees credited to the Governmental Ethics Commission Fee Fund.

Carol Williams, Executive Director, Governmental Ethics Commission, testified in support of the bill. **SB 102** would provide the necessary fee increases that will be required to offset the SGF reductions recommended by the Governor. In order to sustain the Commission's current level of operations, the fee increases should be enacted. (Attachment 1)

There being no further testimony, the hearing on **SB 102** was closed.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 103 - Elections; absentee voting by military and others; federal services absentee ballots**. Staff explained that **SB 103** would expand voting opportunities for certain absentee federal services voters and military personnel or their family members. The bill would allow overseas voters to vote a full ballot at all elections; apply for, receive and return their ballots by electronic means; and vote a write-in ballot, if needed.

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Elections and Legislative Matters, testified in support of the **SB 103**. The Secretary of State proposed this bill that would bring Kansas laws into compliance with the Federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act of 2009. It would allow Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters to vote in all elections, including special elections. (Attachment 2)

There being no further testimony, the hearing on **SB 103** was closed.

The Chairman opened the floor for final action on **SB 126 - Elections; campaign finance; public service ads by candidates restricted**. Senator Schmidt introduced an amendment to change the definition of "public service announcement or advertisement" to specify that the message would be one paid for with public sector funds or private sector funds from the governmental organization's current contractor and to exclude news stories and editorials in media not controlled by the candidate. It also added "intentionally" in the subsection regarding civil penalties.

Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Peterson seconded, the bill be amended as previously stated. Motion carried.

Senator Schmidt moved, Senator Apple seconded, the bill be passed favorably as amended. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the floor for final action on **SB 103 - Elections; absentee voting by military and others; federal services absentee ballots**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:38 a.m. on February 10, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Senator Schmidt moved that the bill be passed favorably; Senator Reitz seconded. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the floor for final action on **SB 102 - Governmental ethics commission; candidate, lobbyist fee increases.** Senator Schmidt moved that the bill be passed favorably; Senator Reitz seconded. Following discussion, motion carried.

Senator Kultala introduced her pages from Patton Junior High School at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

The Chairman called to the attention of the Committee additional written testimony by Representative Tom Moxley on **SB 31 - Campaign finance; electioneering communications; reporting.** (Attachment 3)

The Chairman thanked everyone for appearing before the Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2011

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.