

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 9:30 AM. on February 15, 2012, 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
Laura Jurgensen, Kansas Legislation Research Department
Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Ann Mah, Kansas Legislature, District 53
Earnestine Krehbiel, President, Kansas League of Women Voters
Thomas Witt, Executive Director, Kansas Equality Coalition
Donald Pyle, Crawford County Clerk
Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk
Doug Ballou, Witworth Ballou
Gary Fish, The Fish Agency
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant, Secretary of State

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 389–Elections; development of a voter education program by the Secretary of State**. Staff provided an overview.

Representative Mah testified in favor of SB 389. She had concerns about preserving the voting rights of Kansans whom she felt would be disenfranchised by HB 2067. There will not be enough time for all voters to request and receive ID's to comply with the law. (Attachment 1)

Earnestine Krehbiel, President of League of Women Voters of Kansas, testified in favor of the bill. All voters must be informed they will need a government provided ID in order to vote and the state must undertake substantial voter outreach and public education to inform voters of the law's requirements. Training and education of DMV and election workers has not been done and the remaining HAVA grant money will be inadequate for voter education and election worker training and it should be used for the purpose that it was granted to the state. (Attachment 2)

Thomas Witt, Executive Director, Kansas Equality Coalition, testified in support of SB 389. He does not believe that the Kansas program of voter education will be as extensive enough to be successful. (Attachment 3)

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:30 AM. on February 15, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Donald Pyle, Crawford County Clerk and Election Officer, testified in opposition to SB 389 because he felt that the requirement to contact all voters by direct mail would be very costly and would not have the desired effect on the education of the voters. (Attachment 4)

Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk, testified in opposition to SB 389 as being too costly. The money saved from the cost of the bill could be used for other vital election needs: equipment, programs and training. (Attachment 5)

Maren Turner, State Director, AARP Kansas, an opponent to SB 389 provided written testimony only. (Attachment 6)

Doug Ballou, Whitworth Ballou, testified as neutral on SB 389 (also testifying on behalf of Gary Fish, The Fish Agency). He spoke to the committee about the number and placement of public service announcements. (Attachment 7)

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, testified as neutral on SB 389. The Secretary of State's Office would be required to develop and implement a comprehensive, statewide voter education program before the 2012 general election. Mr. Bryant indicated that their office will do more if the Legislature directs, but asked for clarification on certain concepts of the bill. (Attachment 8)

There being no further discussion, the Chairman closed the hearing.

The Chairman opened the hearing on SB 388—Elections; relating to the education of election workers. The Chairman advised the committee there would not be enough time for all testimony; those testifying who came from out of town would be allowed to testify.

Earnestine Krehbiel, President, Kansas League of Women Voters, testified as a proponent. (Attachment 9) Attachment 2 and Attachment 9 are the same; Ms. Krehbiel provided testimony for SB 388 and SB 389 in the same document.

Donald Pyle, Crawford County Clerk and Election officer, testified as an opponent to SB 388. This bill would place an unneeded burden on both the Secretary of State's Office and on the offices of Kansas' Election Officers. (Attachment 10)

Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk, testified in opposition to SB 388. She felt the education and hands-on training is adequately addressed without this legislation. (Attachment 11)

The hearing on SB 388 would continue on February 16, 2012.

The next meeting will be February 16, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.