

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael R. O'Neal at 12:30 p.m. on March 21, 2001 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Andrew Howell - Excused
Representative Melvin Neufeld - Excused
Representative Rocky Nichols - Excused
Representative Jeff Peterson - Excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Cindy O'Neal, Committee Secretary

Chairman O'Neal & Chairman Adkins hopes to adopt joint committee rules both the traditional type and technical ones. These rules are important and will determine how the committee will look at plans. The rules will be provided at a later date.

The committee was provided with a tentative aggressive schedule that is pretty much set in stone (Attachment 1).

The public hearings will be held in nine locations on seven dates. The panels will be broken down into four house members, one from each party, and four senate members, one from each party. You will be assigned to one public hearing in your area and possibly one other. Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) will be asked to approve non-committee members be allowed to attend one meeting in their area.

Mary Galligan announced that the Chairmen are planning on asking LCC for an additional 10 days for committee members to come to Topeka to work on redistricting plans. These days would be in addition to the public hearing dates and the joint committee meetings being held in the summer.

Mary distributed to each of the members a copy of the portion of the Kansas Constitution that governs legislative redistricting (Attachment 2). Kansas moved from using the state census to the federal census in 1992. The procedure created in the Constitution requires that the most recent federal census figures are used after taking out the nonresident military, & students and reallocating the resident military & students to their permanent residence. These recalculated numbers should be available at the end of July. Only after the numbers have been recalculated will the legislature know the ideal legislative district sizes. Ten years ago the net change was 32,194 due to subtraction of non residents from the state total (Attachment 3)

The committee discussed the possibility of considering population trends when the districts are drawn within the allowed 10% deviation. An example was creating districts on the lower end of the deviation in those areas of the state that have grown and will continue to grow and creating districts on the upper end of the allowable deviation in those areas that have a history of growing slowly or losing residents. Some members of the committee liked the idea of considering the population trends and others did not.

