

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Burgess at 3:30 P.M. on March 21, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Matt Spurgin, Legislative Research Department
Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes Office
Maureen Stinson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: n/a

Others attending:

See attached list.

SB 321 Fort Scott/Bourbon county river front authority act

Representative Vickrey made a motion for the favorable passage of **SB 321** and to amend with a clarifying amendment relating to equipment, land, etc. Representative Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HB 2573 Election of public employer-employee relations law by resolution of city or county voters

Representative Lane made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2573**. Representative Peterson seconded the motion. A division was called and the motion carried 8 to 6.

Martha Dorsey, KLRD, presented an overview of units of local government in Kansas (Attachment 1).

Joan Wagon, Secretary of the Department of Revenue and Chair, Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR), briefed the Committee on consolidation of local governments (Attachment 2). She explained that **HB 2434** and **SB 378** are identical bills which promote inter-local agreements as a vehicle for sharing revenue among cooperating counties. Secretary Wagon informed that the KACIR is asking that the Committee request an interim study on **HB 2130** (Municipalities; consolidation and reorganization; political and taxing subdivision).

Tim Norton, Sedgwick County Commissioner, addressed the Committee. No written copy of his briefing was submitted.

Thomas Wright, former Chair of the Topeka and Shawnee County Consolidation Commission, informed the Committee that presently, two taxing units cannot merge without special legislation (Attachment 3). Mr. Wright said that **HB 2130** is a good start on the important step of streamlining government.

Allyn Lockner, retired economist and management and systems analyst informed the Committee that a strategy is needed to enable elected local officials, community leaders, and voters in local regional communities throughout Kansas to choose, through consensus, what they consider to be the best mix between, on one hand, joint services cooperation and services contracts, and on the other hand, structures consolidation (Attachment 4). He explained that this mix varies among communities and depends on the different major issues and goals for resolving the issues in each community.

Representative Sawyer made a motion for the approval of the minutes for March 20, 2007. Representative Horst seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.