

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chairperson Senator Ed Pugh at 4:00 p.m. on March 12, 2002 in Room 235-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Swanson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

State Senator Jim Barnett
State Senator Jim Barone
State Senator Larry Salmans
State Senator Robert Tyson
State Senator John Vratil
State Senator Nancey Harrington
State Senator Lana Oleen
State Senator Jay Scott Emler
State Senator Kay O'Connor

Others attending:

See attached guest list

Senator Hensley passed out information concerning the legal requirements and compliance of **Sub.SB 379**. (Attachment 1) Chairman Adkins said that the Governor's veto message did not say that **Sub. SB 379** was illegal.

Senator Adkins made remarks concerning the Committee's efforts to solve the issue of reapportionment. He said that Senator Lee's district would go to other areas under the initial Republican caucus proposal, and it is evident that this was not acceptable. He said his interest is to be nonpartisan in coming up with a new plan. A list of items that would serve everyone's interest should be used as a starting point to come up with a new map. Some will feel their interest is being protected, and some will feel their interest is being violated. Previous mistakes that were made should be history, and all should be interested in moving forward.

State Senator Jim Barnett said that Anderson County stretches him too far, and he would be agreeable to looking at Greenwood County.

State Senator Jim Barone testified that Crawford County should not be split. (Attachment 2)

State Senator Larry Salmans said his concern is the great distance from the Nebraska line he represents because it is difficult to represent the constituents. He opposed splitting Pawnee County. He recognized the difficult job that the Committee has to accomplish. Senator Lee agreed with Senator Salmans' remarks. Some of the large districts are almost unworkable in terms of their physical size.

State Senator Robert Tyson testified that he liked the map passed by the Senate.

Senator Jenkins said there were some oversights in the 20th Senatorial District in the map passed by the Senate. The Westboro neighborhood should not have been taken out of the 20th District.

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State Senator John Vratil said he appreciated the Committee Chairman's remarks and urged the Committee to take heed to them. He supported the Johnson County districts as they were approved by this Committee. He said the Johnson County delegation met often, and each of them was allowed to draw their own district, then worked out a plan that was agreeable to all of them. His concern about the map that was passed by the Senate was District 11, because it created a new district in the Southeast corner and divided the City of Leawood. He felt Leawood should not be split. The Blue Valley school district is so large that it will have to be in more than one senatorial district. A much higher percentage of District 8 is retained under the Committee bill than under the Senate bill.

Senator Allen said she will be moving, and her new residence will be in the district she represents after the move.

Vratil said he does not want to thwart the efforts of any person who might want to run for public office. He said if Representative Merrick would rather be in the new district, he has no problem with that. His main concern is that there is a fair and reasonable mixture in districts. This would make for a fair and spirited election. Vratil said that the **Sub. SB 379** map had a corner carved out of Johnson County for Merrick, and he did not feel that was fair. He said there are more than thirteen incorporated cities in Johnson County. In the Committee map, Adkins would represent several cities, and Allen would represent Overland Park. Olathe is currently represented by O'Connor and Brownlee.

State Senator Nancey Harrington was concerned about people requesting that the Committee create specific districts for them. Chairman Adkins said that he had no personal contact from anyone about this issue. He further said that Shane Jones is the 3rd District Republican Chairman, but has not requested any district be drawn for him. Senator Harrington questioned whether or not the Governor's Chief of Staff was going to testify before the Committee. Chairman Adkins said he would welcome the Governor or his staff to testify with their input, but he felt that this Committee should act as the Legislative Branch on its own.

State Senator Lana Oleen, Majority Leader of the Senate, testified. She said reapportionment is a highly emotional issue. Her plea to the Committee was that the process should be open, not covert as she works hard to keep the legislative process open. She complimented Chairman Adkins on his willingness to do this. She said there are two other states which have vetoed their own reapportionment, and numerous states in court. She felt the Kansas Senate should settle its own business. She offered to help to facilitate with her caucus. After meeting with Senator Hensley, she said he agreed to work on the Johnson County concerns with her. She would like to mend the breakage between the conflict on the Committee map and the Senate map. In response to Senator Huelskamp, she clarified that covert means that there are individuals who have maps, and she would like to avoid these "surprise" maps. She said any meeting between her and Senator Hensley is an open meeting. Senator Vratil expressed an interest in working with Senator Oleen on the Johnson County issue.

Senator Lee said she does not want any map to have an incumbent opponent.

Senator Corbin said this Committee has worked hard, and he felt meetings should be a part of the Reapportionment Committee since this is the committee that must solve the problem. He said solutions should be worked out in this committee.

Chairman Adkins said this is a unique piece of legislation since each Senator has ownership and feels he/she is an expert on the issue of redistricting in their own area. Senator Hensley said the solution may be resolved in the Committee of the Whole rather than in this committee.

State Senator Jay Scott Emler testified that he would like to see Dickinson County remain whole.

Senator Allen concurred with Senator Vratil's comments. Senator Teichman said she would like to see Harper County remain whole, especially since it was split so badly in the House.

Senator Tyson said he had been drawn in and drawn out of Johnson County, but he felt that it was fair for

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districts to be drawn on projected growth, not drawn for personalities. He said Senators should look at the total map, not just their own districts. Chairman Adkins said he was in complete agreement with that sentiment.

State Senator Kay O'Connor said she had personally spoken to Rep. Merrick, and he told her that he only had interest in running for the Senate after the map had been drawn.

Senator Hensley said he supported the vetoed map because he felt the rationale behind that map was sound. Chairman Adkins said the Committee should start with that map and make adjustments using that map as a starting point. Senator Corbin agreed.

Chairman Adkins said that because the Committee is dealing with emotions, coalitions and the delicate nature of reapportionment, he did not want to force the issues by moving too quickly. He would like to have a map to the Governor by the end of March. His goal is to accommodate concerns, hear concerns and work across party lines.

Correspondence received by the Kansas Legislative Research Department concerning Senate reapportionment is attached. (Attachment 3)

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.