

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Tony Powell at 3:30 p.m. on March 19, 2001 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Mayans, Excused
Representative Hermes, Excused
Representative Ray, Excused

Committee staff present: Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shirley Weideman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

SB 128 - Proponent: Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairman Powell asked for corrections on minutes for the January 31, February 5, 12, 14, 19, and 22, March 1, 5, 7, 12 and 14 meetings that committee members had received. There being none, minutes were approved without objection.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on **SB 128 - Election crimes.**

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh appeared before the committee in support of **SB 128**. He said that in recent years there have been four types of election problems and he urges the committee to restore the vote trading provision which was removed by the Senate. Secretary Thornburgh outlined the four provisions: 1)Section 1 creates a new crime of voter registration suppression; 2)new Section 2 of the original bill creates the crime of vote trading; 3)Section 2 (originally Section 3) expands the definition of voter intimidation to include dissemination of false information with the intent to keep voters from voting (the penalty for voter intimidation would be changed from a misdemeanor to a felony) and 4)Section 3 (originally Section 4) expands the electioneering statute to cover the advance voting period (prohibits large signs outside of advance-voting places, but allows bumper stickers). He answered questions asked by committee members. (attachment #1)

There being no further discussion, Chair Powell closed the hearing on **SB 128**.

SB 128 - Election Crimes.

Representative Morrison moved an amendment to **SB 128** to restore new Section 2 and change the penalty to a level 10 in all sections. Representative Huff seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Representative Wilson moved to amend **SB 128** to allow 2 days for delivery of applications for advanced ballots to the county election office after the application is signed by the voter. The motion was seconded by Representative Alldritt. Motion carried.

Representative Wilson moved and the motion was seconded by Representative Huff to move **SB 128 as amended** favorably out of committee. Motion passed.

SB 218 - Elections; counting of provisional ballots

Representative Wilson moved **the balloon for SB 218** allowing any valid provisional ballot to be opened and numbered by the county election officer to correspond to the number on the envelope and the number of the provisional voter's name in the registration or poll book, and then sealed and stored with other ballots. The motion was seconded by Representative Morrison. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the March 19, 2001, meeting of the Ethics and Elections Committee.

Representative Wilson moved and the motion was seconded by Representative Gilbert to pass **SB 128** favorably out of committee. Motion passed.

SB 171 - State aircraft travel by the governor.

Representative Alldritt moved to amend **Substitute for SB 171** to allow the secretary of administration to adopt rules and regulations, fix charges and collect fees for authorized travel for the Governor or his family which are consistent with FAA requirements and change the first paragraph of Section 2 to: The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall designate the mode of transportation deemed necessary for the purpose of providing security for the Governor and the Governor's family. The motion was seconded by Representative Huff. Motion carried.

Representative Alldritt moved that **Substitute for SB 171 as amended** be passed favorably out of the committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Huff. Motion passed.

The committee discussed **SB 192**, which had passed favorably out of the committee, and decided to move forward with the bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.
