

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Senator Janice Hardenburger at 1:30 p.m. on March 2, 2000, in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present:

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes
Graceanna Wood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant, Secretary of State
Connie Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner
Elizabeth Ensley, Shawnee County Election Commissioner
Karen Hartenbower, Lyon County Clerk

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Hardenburger opened the hearing on **HB 2844 concerning elections; relating to the distribution of ballots.**

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State testified in support of **HB 2844**. He said the bill was proposed by the Secretary of State to provide the authority and flexibility necessary to allow people to vote during emergency circumstances such as war, floods, etc.. (Attachment #1)

Senator Gooch asked how they could confirm if someone is registered to vote. Mr. Bryant informed the Committee that this would be coordinated through the county election officer who registers voters; however, in the case of a ballot being contested, it is held as a provisional ballot. Thereafter, the county canvassers confirm if the ballot is valid.

Seeing no opposition to the bill, Chairman Hardenburger closed the hearing on **HB 2844**.

Senator Becker moved that **HB 2844** be passed out favorably and asked to be placed on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Senator Praeger. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardenburger opened the hearing on **SB 2854 concerning elections; relating to ballots and ballot applications; relating to election machines and repealing the existing section.**

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant, Secretary of State, testified in support of the bill that was proposed by the Secretary of State. He informed the Committee the bill would assist county election officers in the administration of elections by eliminating the first class mailing rates, eliminating mechanical models and requiring the date of birth on applications for advance ballots. (Attachment #2)

The Committee discussed if the entire birth date, day, month, and year, should be on the application. Mr. Bryant said the application would not be denied if the year is not furnished on the application.

Connie Smith, Election Commissioner from Johnson County expressed support of **HB 2854**. She said the bill would eliminate the requirement that an election office must provide a mechanically operated model of a voting machine in every polling place; and adds "date of birth" to the required wording on an application for an advance voting ballot would be helpful. (Attachment #3)

Elizabeth Ensley, Shawnee County Commissioner of Elections presented testimony in favor of **HB 2854**. She stated the bill removes a remaining reference to first class postage, and an issue addressed in the bill is the requirement for a birth date on the advance voting application. (Attachment #4)

Not seeing any opposition on **HB 2854**, Chairman Hardenburger closed the hearing on the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Senator Becker moved that definitive terms be added on the birth date (month/day/year), seconded by Senator Gooch. Motion carried.

Senator Praeger moved to pass out **HB 2854** favorably as amended, seconded by Senator Lawrence. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardenburger opened the hearing on **HB 2928 concerning elections; relating to election judges and clerks; and repealing the existing section.**

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State testified in support of the bill. He said the bill would allow sixteen and seventeen year olds to serve as election board workers as long as they meet the other qualifications of registered voters. There would be a limit of one per precinct. (Attachment #6)

Connie Schmidt, Election Commissioner, Johnson County, testified in support of the bill, which would establish the minimum age requirement for an election judge or clerk to at least seventeen years of age, and further adds the stipulation that only one person of that age may be appointed to each election board. (Attachment #7)

Shawnee Election Commissioner Elizabeth Ensley, also expressed support for **HB 2928**. She informed the Committee that any help the Election Board workers received would be appreciated.

Karen Hartenbower, Lyon County Clerk presented testimony in favor of the bill. She told the Committee that she sees many opportunities for the students participating, as well as helping the Board Workers. (Attachment #8)

Seeing no opposition, Chairman Hardenburger closed the hearing on **HB 2928**.

Senator Praeger moved that **HB 2928** be passed out favorably and asked that it be placed on the Consent Calender, seconded by Senator Lawrence. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2000.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

Pag

