

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jene Vickrey at 3:30 P.M. on February 10, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bonnie Huy- excused  
Representative Harold Lane- excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department  
Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Maureen Stinson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dick Hanson, Board of Veterinarian Examiners  
Melissa Wangemann, Office of the Secretary of State  
Chris Ross-Baze, Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Roger Werholtz, Kansas Department of Corrections  
Randall Allen, Kansas Association of Counties  
Corey Peterson, General Associated Contractors of Kansas  
Bob Totten, Kansas Contractor's Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

**HB 2186**      **Counties; awarding of contracts, when bids required**

Randall Allen, Kansas Association of Counties, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 1). He said they are requesting that counties' threshold for bidding public building or bridge construction projects be changed from \$10,000 (current law) to \$100,000. He stated they also want to raise the threshold under which a surety or performance bond is not statutorily required to be filed with a board of county commissioners prior to the award of a county construction contract.

Corey Peterson, General Associated Contractors of Kansas, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 2). He said the traditional open bidding procedure has worked effectively for public entities for many years and it is their position that it can continue to be used effectively on projects smaller than \$100,000.

Bob Totten, Kansas Contractors Association, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 3). He said raising the contract threshold is not in the best interest of the state as it would take private industry out of the opportunity to bid on projects which normally are conducted by the private sector.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2186**.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

**HB 2242**      **Ombudsman of corrections; records**

Roger Werholtz, Kansas Department of Corrections, provided administrative information to the committee concerning the bill (Attachment 4). He explained that the office of the Ombudsman of Corrections was abolished and, therefore, there is no longer a need for a statutory provision providing for the confidentiality of the records of that office.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2242**.

Rep. Holland made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2242** and asked that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar because the bill is of a non-controversial nature. Rep. Swenson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Governmental Organization and Elections Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 10, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

**HB 2198**      **Child care facilities records; disclosure**

Christine Ross-Baze, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 5). She said that the proposed amendment gives the Department discretion to determine if the confidential information is appropriate to be disclosed.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2198**.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

**HB 2118**      **Cemetery merchandise trust funds; disclosure of certain information**

Melissa Wangemann, Office of the Secretary of State, provided administrative information to the Committee. She said the bill relates to public disclosure about cemetery merchandise trust funds and permanent maintenance funds (Attachment 6).

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2118**.

Rep. Goico made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2118** and asked that the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar because the bill is of a non-controversial nature. Rep. Oharah seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

**HB 2148**      **Veterinarians; disclosure of fines imposed for violation of veterinary practice act**

Dirk Hanson, State Board of Veterinarian Examiners, testified in opposition to the bill. No written testimony was provided.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2148**.

Chairman Vickrey adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2005.