

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jene Vickrey at 3:30 P.M. on January 11, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Representative Dale Swenson- excused  
Representative Melody Miller- excused

Committee staff present: Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Maureen Stinson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: none

Others attending:  
See Attached List

### **Bill Introductions**

Doug Anstett, Executive Director, Kansas Press Association, requested committee bills. The subjects of the bills are as follows:

- An amendment to the Kansas Constitution guaranteeing the right of public access to governmental activities.
- The formation of a public integrity office in the Office of the Kansas Attorney General to investigate alleged violations of the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) and the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA), to initiate action if necessary and to compile statistical information.
- Changes to two exemptions in the Kansas Open Records Act. The first change expands the language in exemption 4 to include “actual compensation in employment contracts or employment related contracts or agreements. The second change is in exemption 30 and related to the personal privacy exemption, to include a statement that the exemption be strictly construed even though such disclosure may cause inconvenience or embarrassment to public officials or others. Concerning statutes in another part of the KORA, we’d like define what a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy would mean.
- Under KSA 45-217, we are requesting language to re- define any public agency to include those companies that derive at least 50 percent of their annual expenditures from taxes or fees collected by cities, counties, school districts, of the State of Kansas unless they already provide an accounting of those expenditures to the granting agency.
- Change to the penalty section of the KORA, to subject agency record custodians who knowingly and illegally deny individuals or the press access to public records.

Without objection, these will be considered introduced as committee bills and one resolution.

Rep. Frank Miller requested a committee bill dealing with the registration of voters stipulating that if a voter who misses a third general election (six years), his/her name could then be dropped from the voter registration list. The proposed legislation is a resolution to the federal government and makes changes to the 1992 Voter Act.

No action was taken concerning the request. Rep. F. Miller will consider whether or not the bill is to be introduced.

### **Committee Introductions**

Members of the committee introduced themselves.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 11, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

### Interim Committee Reports

Mike Heim briefed the committee on the meetings held during the Interim by the Special Committee on Local Government. He distributed a summary (Attachment 1) of the work of the committee including conclusions and recommendations on the two topics of study:

- City Annexation Laws
- Kansas Open Records Act

Chairman Vickrey asked Mr. Heim to clarify the intent of **HB 2013**, a bill by the Special Committee on Local Government. Mr. Heim explained that the bill would re-enact all the KORA exceptions.

Chairman Vickrey asked whether there was a bill by the Special Committee concerning 12 exceptions noted in the summary (Attachment 1). Mr. Heim said that there was not currently a bill on that topic and that there would need to be a bill requested.

There was discussion concerning the need for possible legislation concerning KORA and disclosure of daycare addresses. There is currently not a bill relating to the matter.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2005.