

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Kahrs at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 281-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sawyer – Excused

Representative Tom Burroughs, appointed substitute member to the committee

Committee staff present:

Cindy Lash, Legislative Research Department

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department

June Christensen, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Clay Barker, Chairman, Kansas Republican Party

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2182 — Campaign finance solicitations; legislative session.

Chairman Kahrs opened the meeting. He introduced Daniel Yoza to review **HB2182**, which would not allow any registered lobbyist, political committee or person, other than an individual, to make a contribution after January 1 of each year and prior to adjournment sine die or any other time the legislature is in session.

After discussion and questioning if subsection (c) would be necessary, since elimination of section 1, line (6) would take care of it, it was determined it probably was not necessary.

Chairman Kahrs introduced Clay Barker, Republican Party Chairman, who testified in support of the bill, noting that it would only affect four organizations. ([Attachment 1](#)).

Carol Williams, Executive Director of the Governmental Ethics Commission, presented written testimony. ([Attachment 2](#)). She answered questions and clarified what types of donations and from whom those would be acceptable.

There were no opponents or neutral testimony presented.

Chairman Kahrs closed the hearing on **HB2182**.

Hearing on: HB2211 — Campaign finance; soliciting campaign funds.

Daniel Yoza, revisor, explained the bill would be similar to the previous bill, and noted that the legislator could solicit but could not accept any donations during that time period. It also further defines social media.

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Mr. Barker testified in support of the bill and said it was clearer than the previous bill. ([Attachment 3](#)). Upon questioning, Ms. Williams said this bill would probably be the better of the two bills.

There were no opponents or neutral testimony.

Chairman Kahrs closed the hearing on **HB2211**.

Hearing on: HB2212 — City political committees.

Mr. Yoza reviewed **HB2212**, which would allow creation of city parties in addition to the state and county committees but would have to be approved by the state committee.

Mr. Barker presented testimony in support of the proposed legislation. ([Attachment 4](#)). He gave historical information regarding how the bill came about. It would be beneficial for large counties, such as Johnson County, which is populated with many municipalities. City committees would be smaller and could meet more often if they wished.

Questions and discussion included concerns that there could be a considerable number of committees that would be more difficult to oversee. It was also noted that local committees could be strengthened through this action. Mr. Barker said he had been in conversation with Mr. Perkey, chairman of the Democratic party, who is in agreement with the bill. All city committees would have their own rules according to their respective parties' rules. They would not be allowed to participate in primary elections.

There were no opponent or neutral testimony presented.

Chairman Kahrs said he would keep the hearing on this bill open until next week and will work it after that.

Hearing on: HB2214 — Procedure of appointment when certain vacancies of office or nomination occur.

Mr. Yoza reviewed **HB2214**, which would define that the party would have 21 days from the date of death of a candidate to fill the vacancy. It would also allow political parties to promulgate rules for replacement meetings not covered in the statute but must be done before the replacement meeting begins. It also says that in the case of withdrawal of a candidate, the party will replace the candidate within 21 days after the primary election has passed. There is a balloon amendment that will do that. He answered questions regarding the bill.

Mr. Barker testified in support of the bill and said this bill would clarify several issues. ([Attachment 5](#)). Sometimes the notification of death has been delayed, so this would address that. It would also clarify

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what a quorum meant, and it would be the parties' responsibility as to the number of proxies that could be carried. He answered additional questions.

There were no opponents wishing to testify or neutral testimony presented.

Chairman Kahrs said he would not close the hearing on this bill either so that the Democrat Party could be notified and see if they wished to testify.

Discussion and action on HB2184 - governmental ethics - relating for officers and employees, filings by lobbyists.

Chairman Kahrs announced that **HB2184** would be discussed and worked today. Mr. Yoza reviewed the bill, which would change the amount for hospitality donations from \$40 to \$80. After discussion, it was determined there would be a balloon amendment to raise this to \$100 to be consistent with the recreational recreational amount of \$100.

Representative Campbell moved that a balloon amendment be approved to raise the proposed \$80 hospitality donation to \$100. [Attachment 6](#). Seconded by Representative Whitmer.

Discussion and questions followed.

*Representative Peck moved to pass out **HB2184**, as amended, favorably from committee. Seconded by Representative Whitmer. The motion carried.*

Representative Alcala requested that his "nay" vote be recorded.

Announcements

Chairman Kahrs announced that the next meeting will be Thursday, February 12, and **HB2181**, **HB2183**, and **HB2185** will be worked.

Adjournment

Chairman Kahrs adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.