

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Kahrs at 1:30 pm on Thursday, February 12, 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:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Discussion & action on: HB2182 — Campaign finance solicitations; legislative session.

Chairman Kahrs called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm. He announced that **HB2211** would not be heard today and that **HB2181**, **HB2183**, and **HB2185** would be considered for final action.

Chairman Kahrs introduced Daniel Yoza, Revisor's office, to review **HB2182**. It would strike subsection c, since removing line (6) in section 1 would eliminate the need for it.

Representative Esau moved to amend the bill to strike subsection c, seconded by Representative Whitmer. Motion carried.

*Representative Esau moved that **HB2182**, as amended, be moved favorably from the committee. seconded by Representative Campbell.*

After discussion, Representative Esau closed the motion, and it carried.

Discussion & action on: HB2183 — Political campaigns and use of technology.

Mr. Yoza reviewed **HB2183**, which defines the times and ways that legislators can receive contributions and the use of technology. He presented a proposed balloon amendment. ([Attachment 1](#)).

The committee discussed the issue, particularly regarding the use of technology and how it impacts using electronic devices within the Capitol and other government buildings. The bill also exempts the "paid for" attributions for social media communication with characters of 200 amended from 140. Carol Williams, executive director of the Governmental Ethics Commission, suggested possible

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verbiage that would clarify the bill. The committee also amended the definition of social media as originally offered in the bill.

Representative Campbell moved to adopt the proposed balloon amendment to the bill to read on page 4: "by state of Kansas or any municipality." Seconded by Representative Whitmer.

Representative Campbell closed the motion, and it carried.

Representative Huebert moved that **HB2183**, as amended, be passed favorably from committee. Seconded by Representative Powell.

There was further discussion.

Representative Huebert moved to close, and the motion to approve the bill, as amended, carried.

Discussion & action on: HB2185 — Elections; polling places; unified school districts.

Mr. Yoza reviewed **HB2185**, which addresses the use of public school buildings as election polling places. A proposed balloon amendment would change the number of days to notify schools from 60 to 180 days; would change the word ... "shall" to "may" schedule an in-service day for teachers on the date of election. He presented a balloon amendment. ([Attachment 2](#)).

Representative Esau moved to approve the proposed balloon amendment from 60 days to 180 days; change the word "shall" to "may" and the word "training" to "in-service." Seconded by Representative Scapa.

Representative Scapa moved to have a substitute motion to change the time from 180 to 365 days. Seconded by Representative Whitmer.

Representative Peck indicated that he would oppose the substitute motion to change to 365 days, as he believed it might be too far away for election officers to know how many places they would need. Representative Carmichael noted that the election officer could notify the school district in time if they did not need it but said he still would oppose the bill.

Representative Scapa moved the substitute motion, which carried.

Representative Esau closed the motion on the balloon amendment to the bill, and it carried.

Representative Esau closed on the main motion to approve the bill, as amended.

Representative Campbell said he believed that there were things in the bill that could cause the schools to have problems and that he would be opposing the bill. Representative Carmichael said he

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believed this bill could be considered an unfunded mandate; that school districts should receive some sort of monetary compensation to use the buildings; and that there could be many other school-related activities on the in-service days that could interfere with the elections. He said he would also oppose the bill. Representative Whitmer noted that his district schools had contacted him, and because the number of days were changed, he would reluctantly support the bill. Representative Esau said that schools are already being paid as a government entity and that it would only be a few days a year and schools could accommodate this. Representative Huebert said some issues could be changed before it comes before the House; and Representative Scapa said he believed it to be an appropriate use of the buildings as opposed to paying a large sum for privately leased space.

Representative Esau moved to pass the bill favorably, as amended, from committee. The motion carried.

Representatives Campbell and Burroughs requested their votes be shown as "nays."

Announcements

Chairman Kahrs announced that hearings will continue on **HB2212** and **HB2214** on Monday, February 16. Joan Wagnon from the Democratic Party and Clay Barker from the Republican Party will testify. If time permits, **HB2213** and **HB2215** will be heard.

Adjournment

Chairman Kahrs adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.