

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Kahrs at 1:30 pm on Monday, March 09, 2015, 281-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Representative Larry Campbell – Excused

Representative Tom Sawyer – Excused

Representative Kathy Wolfe Moore, 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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Carol Williams, Executive Director, Governmental Ethics Commission

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Chairman Kahrs called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

### **Hearing on: SB28 — Lobbyist defined.**

He introduced Daniel Yoza, revisor, who reviewed **SB28** and noted that it was nearly identical to **HB2082 - Concerning lobbyists; regarding definitions**, that had been passed from this committee a few weeks ago.

*Chairman Kahrs moved to open the hearing on the above bill, seconded by Representative O'Brien, and carried.*

Chairman Kahrs introduced Carol Williams, executive director of the Governmental Ethics Commission, who also said the bill was nearly identical to **HB2082**. ([Attachment 1](#)).

There were no opponents or neutral testimony presented.

Chairman Kahrs said that he would like to work this bill today, as the similar House version had been passed from this committee previously.

*Representative Whitmer moved to suspend Rule 1308 (which delays action for 24 hours) and work the bill. Seconded by Representative Scapa.*

Representative Peck questioned if this can be done, and Daniel Yoza said it would require a two-third's vote. Representative Carmichael noted that this was not on the agenda, and since there were three absences, he requested the bill be deferred until all members are present.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Elections at 1:30 pm on Monday, March 09, 2015, 281-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Kahrs moved the vote. The motion carried, nine to three.

Representative Steve Huebert arrived, and after further discussion, Representative Carmichael appealed the decision of the chair.

Chairman Kahrs called for a vote, and it carried nine to three.

Representative Alcala called for a point of order and said he did not believe Representative Huebert's vote should be counted, as he was not present when the original motion was voted on and that *Robert's Rules of Order* be followed. Chairman Kahrs ruled that the vote would stand.

Representative Peck said that since he had voted on the prevailing side he would move to reconsider the original vote regarding Rule 1308 for the purpose of working SB28. Seconded by Representative Scapa. The motion carried.

Chairman Kahrs explained that his intent was not to work the bill today, but since it was identical to the House bill that originally passed, it would allow this bill to move the House floor more quickly. He said it was not his intent to alienate committee members. Representative Carmichael indicated he would vote to approve the motion if the committee so wanted.

Representative Whitmer moved to suspend Rule No. 1308 and work the bill today; seconded by Representative Scapa, and carried unanimously.

Motion by Representative Scapa, seconded by Representative Powell, to pass **SB28** favorably from committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Kahrs announced that the bill had passed and closed the hearing on it.

**Hearing on: SB77 — Governmental ethics commission fees.**

Chairman Kahrs opened the hearing on **SB77**, which would increase fees for the Ethics Commission. Daniel Yoza, revisor, reviewed the bill and clarified what portion of the fees would go to the Commission.

Carol Williams, executive director of the Governmental Ethics Commission, testified in favor of the bill and gave historical background on implementing the fee-funding portion, which is expected to be depleted by 2018. By raising the fees, that probably can be avoided. ([Attachment 2](#)). Discussion was held that it might be better to increase the fees more now and not have to return to the committee in a few years to increase them again. Ms. Williams explained that the reason for the Attorney General's opinion is that fee increases must be substantiated and that smaller fees are more acceptable to those involved, so it might be better to return at a later date if necessary.

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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.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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There was no opponent or neutral testimony, so Chairman Kahrs closed the hearing on **SB77**.

### **Announcements**

Chairman Kahrs announced that the next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, from 1 to 3 pm. Proponents will be allowed to speak for 45 minutes, and then questions will be allowed for 15 minutes. Opponents will be allowed to speak for 45 minutes, and another 15 minutes will be allowed for questions. He apologized for the problems in the meeting, and Representative Carmichael did also.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Kahrs adjourned the meeting at 2:10 pm.