

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mitch Holmes at 9:39am on Thursday, January 29, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Tom Arpke – Excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department

Darla Conner, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State

Carol Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission

Richard Gannon, on behalf of Doug Anstaett for the Kansas Press Association

Bradley Bryant, Deputy Secretary for Elections & Legislative Matters, Office of the Secretary of State

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: SB79 — Electronic publication of propositions to amend the constitution.

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **SB79**.

Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State, testified in support of **SB79**. This legislation was proposed because of the expense of the three-time publication requirement. ([Attachment 1](#)) He presented the committee data about the fiscal impact of proposed Constitutional amendments in 2015. ([Attachment 2](#)) Questions from the committee were addressed by Secretary Kobach.

Richard Gannon, on behalf of Doug Anstaett for the Kansas Press Association, testified in opposition to **SB79**. His concerns are about notification to the people of the state of Kansas when proposing amendments to the state constitution. ([Attachment 3](#))

There being no further conferees, the Chairman closed the hearing on **SB79**.

Hearing on: SB77 — Governmental ethics commission fees.

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **SB77**.

Carol Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, testified in support of **SB77** which would raise the fees that candidates, political action committees, and lobbyists

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Ethics and Elections at 9:39am on Thursday, January 29, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

pay to the Governmental Ethics Commission fee fund. ([Attachment 4](#)) Executive Director Williams addressed questions from the committee.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB77** was closed.

Hearing on: SB78 — Campaign finance; legislators filing report electronically.

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **SB78**.

Carol Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, testified before the committee as a proponent of **SB78**. Electronically submitted reports are easier to read, the format is uniform, and addition errors do not occur which makes the comprehensive desk reviews of these reports easier to complete. ([Attachment 5](#)) Executive Director Williams addressed questions from the committee.

Bradley Bryant, Deputy Secretary of Elections & Legislative Matters, Office of the Secretary of State, testified before the committee in support of **SB78**. Deputy Secretary Bryant noted that filing electronically would save staff time and paper. (No written testimony presented) Deputy Secretary Bryant addressed questions from the committee.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB78** was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.