

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mitch Holmes at 9:30am on Thursday, February 05, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

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:

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau  
Bryan Caskey, Assistant State Election Director, Elections and Legislative Matters for the Secretary of State's Office  
Roger Woods, Deputy State Director of Kansas Americans for Prosperity  
Nathan Eberline, Legal Counsel for the Kansas Association of Counties

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Possible bill introductions**

Senator Marci Francisco introduced a bill concerning the closed or executive session of an open meeting for the purpose of consulting of an attorney for the body or agency which could be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship. As there were no objections, the bill was introduced.

Chairman Mitch Holmes introduced "The Help Kansas Vote Act". An act concerning elections and voting which relates to certain municipalities and special districts. As there were no objections, the bill was introduced.

### **Hearing on: SB41 — Uniformed and overseas citizens absentee voting act; out of state college students.**

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **SB41**. Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes, provided the committee an overview of **SB41**.

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau testified in support of **SB41**. ([Attachment 1](#)) Senator Faust-Goudeau related the voting experience her daughter had as an out of state college student. The Senator stood for questions from the committee.

Andrew Figueiredo, a student at Wichita High School East, submitted written testimony in support of **HB41**. ([Attachment 2](#)) Mr. Figueiredo stated "This bill would serve as a reassurance to me and many other Kansas students studying at out of state colleges."

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Ethics and Elections at 9:30am on Thursday, February 05, 2015, 159-S of the Capitol.

Bryan Caskey, Assistant State Election Director - Elections and Legislative Matters Office of the Secretary of State appeared before the committee in opposition of **SB41**. ([Attachment 3](#)) The Secretary of State's office opposes this bill for three reasons: 1) Current Kansas law is sufficient in providing adequate time for voting to Kansans attending a college out of state; 2) Ballot production deadlines required to meet the 45 day are administratively difficult for county election officers to meet; and 3) Equal protection issues. Mr. Caskey stood for questions from the committee.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **SB41**.

**Hearing on: SB42 — Governmental ethics; public funds used for lobbying.**

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **SB42**. Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, provided the committee an overview of **SB42**.

Roger Woods, Deputy State Director for Kansas Americans for Prosperity, testified in support of **SB42**. ([Attachment 4](#)) Mr. Woods supports this bill because it is a good government transparency bill that would require disclosure of public funds used for lobbying. Mr. Woods addressed questions from the committee.

James Franko, Vice President and Policy Director for the Kansas Policy Institute, provided written testimony in support of **SB42**. ([Attachment 5](#))

Nathan Eberline, Legal Counsel for the Kansas Association of Counties, testified in neutral position on **SB42**. ([Attachment 6](#)) Kansas Association of Counties supports this bill which offers improvement in transparency without creating undue burden on local government. Mr. Eberline stood for questions.

Nicole Proulx Aiken, Legal Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities, submitted written testimony in a neutral position on **SB42**. ([Attachment 7](#))

Chairman Holmes closed the hearing on **SB42**.

The next meeting will February 11, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.