

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 23, 1967

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman who stated that opponents to H.B. 1113 and 1114 were supposed to be heard, but that they were not present as yet. Therefore, he called for discussion S.B. 118, calling the attention of the Committee to the fact that this is identical to H.B. 1102 by Dr. Steichen and that it simply provided for the leasing of a building at Norton in order to give space for a proposed Alcoholic Treatment Center. Mr. Ford moved that the bill be recommended favorably, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Jelinek. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rogers discussed H.B. 1021, a proposal to permit those over 65 to attend state schools without payment of fees. He pointed out that he believed the bill should be amended in Section 1, line 1 to say "may" instead of "shall", which would give the Board of Regents proper control. He then moved to amend the bill in this respect. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fribley and carried unanimously. Thereupon, Mr. Rogers moved that H.B. 1021 as amended, be recommended favorably. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fribley and carried unanimously.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that H.B. 1113 and 1114 had been heard, discussed and passed out favorably; and then the Committee had agreed to reconsider their action in order that some people who had objections might be heard. Mr. Mosher of the League of Kansas Municipalities appeared in opposition to the bills, stating that to require a 60% vote in elections of this kind would not be progressive; that he believed only two states, Missouri and Calif., required such a percentage. Mr. McGill stated that he had the Research Department compile some figures and that he found that four states required in excess of this figure, and up to 75%; that 25 states require a 50% and the balance in excess of 50%. He stated that this was in one or more of their governmental subdivisions. Mr. Doyen inquired what percentage of property owners vote in an election of this kind, and Mr. Mosher stated that a lot don't vote.

Mr. Doyen stated that he had explained H.B. 1180 previously, and now moved to recommend its passage. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fribley. Mr. Turner protested that he felt that this bill would give too much power to one person and that he didn't feel that this kind of legislation lead to good government. Mr. Andrews stated that he was not thinking along party lines at all, but that one of the state officials had been heard and it looked as if they were choosing sides and causing a real awkward situation. He felt that the architect would act in good faith and use sound judgment. Mr. Buchele stated that he had done some personal investigation, and found that some of the state officials were indulging in silly behavior and that this sort of thing has to stop somewhere; that he feels this is a good bill and about five years late. Mr. Bunten asked for a secret ballot, and upon count the motion carried fifteen to four.

Mr. Carl Ramsey of the Saline County Commission, appeared in opposition to H.B. 1113 and 1114; stating that he believed in many cases such a percentage majority would delay needed improvements; and stated a case in Saline County and in particular the 4-H building; where they would n't have a building at all if it had required such a vote; but that the building was filling a real need; that he believes it would be better to continue the simple majority.

Mr. Tobias appeared in support of his HCR 1012, a resolution that proposed to call the attention of all architects and planning people in the state, to the problem of the handicapped, urging that provisions be made for them when planning new buildings of any kind. Mr. Rogers moved that this resolution be recommended for adoption, which motion was seconded by Mr. Andrews and carried unanimously.

Rep. Dierdorff appeared in support of his H.B. 1235, stating that he is sick and tired of utilities securing a certificate of convenience to provide transportation service, and then not providing it, and preventing someone else coming in and taking care of a need; that this bill would enable the Corporation Commission to take action easier. He stated that his community is virtually isolated without any kind of public transportation. The Chairman pointed out that in his area the problem is acute also; that there is neither rail nor bus service for many miles and that sometimes transportation is a real problem. Mr. Ford stated that he is in complete sympathy with this bill, and moved its favorable recommendation. Motion was seconded by Mr. Kessinger and carried unanimously.

The Chairman announced that there would be no meeting on Friday, but that on Monday and Tuesday, February 27 and 28, hearings would be held on the private club bill.

Meeting was adjourned, with all members having been present except Mr. Fribley and Mr. Woodworth, who were excused.

MARGARET GENTRY, Secretary