

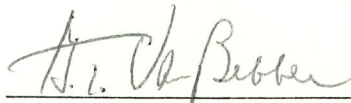
MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

Held in Room 510-S, at the Statehouse at 2:45 ~~xxx~~ a.m./p.m., on January 28, 19 75.

All members were present ~~except~~

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 2:45 ~~xx~~ a.m./p.m., on January 30, 19 75.

~~These~~ minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 19 75 were considered, ~~corrected~~ and approved.



Chairman

The conferees appearing before the Committee were:

Representative Mainey
Representative Farrar

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman who explained that H.B. 2086 was designed to give governmental bodies operating fire departments, authority to deduct amounts from pay for dues to labor organizations. He introduced Rep. Mainey who explained that the bill was drafted at the request of some Johnson County people who felt there might be a question about their ability to handle this under home rule. He stated that after consulting Dr. Drury of the Research Department, it was determined such legislation is unnecessary, and he requested that the Committee report this bill adversely.

The Chairman stated that Rep. Farrar was appearing on behalf of H.B. 2101, which is a bill which passed out of Committee last year and in fact passed the House, but died in the Senate upon adjournment. Mr. Farrar explained that this bill is the same as last year's H.B. 2039; that it was, however, amended on the floor and in this drafting they had failed to include the amendment. He presented a proposed amendment which he asked the committee to consider when action is taken. Further, Mr. Farrar stated that he had talked to people who appeared at the hearing last year and he had been authorized to assure the committee of their continuing support. (See statement by Mr. George R. Tyll.) *not avail.*

Mr. Morris stated that he is sure the intent of the amendment is good, but stated it could cause difficulties too; that there is nothing wrong with recording such meetings but in some cases he has been aware of the press coming in, turning on bright lights and disrupting meetings. He stated he is in favor of open meetings but believed the Chairman should have the right to decide what might be disruptive and request that such activity be stopped.

Mr. Slattery suggested that the majority party might want to look at the last sentence of the first paragraph of the bill and consider whether or not caucuses are governmental meetings, and whether or not such meetings should be held in this building.

Rep. Farrar stated this bill came about after an Attorney General's Opinion in 1973, where it appeared there was a need in regard to school boards, County Commissions, and others at the local level.

Mr. Sellers inquired about Executive Sessions, and it was explained that this bill does not speak to that section of the law; that it is covered in an additional section (KSA 1974 Supp. 75-4317 and 18).

Mr. R. Miller stated that he had offered the amendment last year, and that he feels it still doesn't solve but half of the problem; that this could open it up to people who just don't like cameras.

The Chairman suggested these individuals who want amendments should get with the Revisor and have something drafted for the consideration of the committee.

In the absence of staff people from both the Revisor's office and the Research Department, the Chairman explained that H.B. 2011 deals with sex biased language in the statutes. He stated that these are old statutes where there is a provision that property owned by a woman at the time of her marriage could remain her property. The bill changes the wording to apply to either a man or woman. Section 2 provides for disposal of property, but does not change the provision requiring the spouse to join in the conveyance and waive the right to the property. Section 3 deals with the right to sue or be sued, giving equal rights to each sex, and the same is true in Section 4. Section 5 involves a substantial change which gives equal right to sue in the case of loss of services. In the past this right has not been available to women. The Chairman suggested that members might review the recommendations of the Interim Committee in regard to Proposal 34, which resulted in this proposal. He also stated that he had received a number of letters from a law firm in Wichita, which favored this proposal, and none in opposition.

Mr. Morris stated that in the Interim Committee study there was another area of concern and that is the homestead exemption allowed to widows, but that the committee was not disposed to make a recommendation.

The minutes of the meeting for January 27th were distributed. It was moved by Mr. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Cooper that they be approved as written. Motion carried.

The Chairman announced that there would be no meeting on January 29th, but that on the 30th, action would be taken on the bills under consideration, and that the committee would hear individuals on HB 2138 and HCR 2001 and HCR 2006.

The meeting was adjourned.