

Approved

R. H. Harper, February 1, 1983
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Representative Richard L. Harper at
Chairperson

9:00 a.m.
_____ a.m./p.m. on January 25, 1983 in room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Joe Knopp, excused.

Committee staff present:

Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research
Ramon Powers, Legislative Research
Arden Ensley, Revisor of Statute's Office
Eric Rucker, Secretary of State's Office
Dottie Musselman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Roger Keith, Franklin County Commissioner
George Marstall, City Commissioner, Franklin
County

Chairperson Harper called the meeting to order. At this time, Chairperson Harper called to the attention of the Committee members, the permanent change of meeting rooms.

Chairperson Harper called for any Committee discussion on HB 2024. There being only a short discussion on this bill, the following action was taken:

Representative Acheson moved that HB 2024 be passed. Representative Norman Justice seconded. Motion carried.

Chairperson Harper called for the next order of business. Thus, the hearing on HB 2015, An Act concerning petitions for elections, by a Special Committee on Local Government, was the next business of this Committee.

Roger Keith, County Commissioner of Franklin County, was called to the floor to testify on HB 2015, by Chairperson Harper.

Mr. Keith thanked the Committee for inviting him to give a little insight on this bill.

A brief summary of the situation in Franklin County was given by Mr. Keith regarding the budget. He stated "to make a long story short, they are going broke, and it doesn't seem like there is anything they can do about it." Mr. Keith noted that when they went in as Commissioners, they knew that they were in a depression state, and were willing to hold the line and were going to have to make cuts that they didn't want to do.

Mr. Keith said that he would like to remind the Committee that this bill is vital, and important for Franklin County and to him, as a Commissioner.

At this time, several questions were directed to Mr. Keith, regarding a sales tax.

Chairperson Harper called on George L. Marstall, member, City Commission, City of Ottawa, to the floor. Mr. Marstall distributed copies of informational material relative to HB 2015. (Attachment 1).

At this time, Representative Dorothy Nichols, District #14, passed out a proposed amendment on HB 2015. Chairperson Harper assured Representative Nichols that the Committee would consider her proposed amendment. It was announced, by Chairperson Harper, there would be more discussion on this bill at another date.

There being no other conferees, it was moved by Representative Norman Justice to adjourn. Representative Fox seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Mailing
sub

DATE Jan. 25, '83

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

GUEST LIST

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Hayne Stark	R# 1 Newden	SN County Elections
George L. Muntz	815 E. 16 th St. Terr-Ottawa	City of Ottawa
Ryan Roub	R# 2 Ottawa Kans	County Comm
CHARLES MAVITY	924 S. GEAR OTTAWA, KS	County Comm.
Be & Crew	1928 SW, Curdson	Top. Ks.
Del. Note	Topka	MS
Christy Young	777 Kana Ave, Topoka	Greater Topoka Cham of Comm
Veretty J. Hyles	1592 W. Blake, Wichita Ks.	(guest of Geo. Dean)
Frank Hines	Topoka	Leg. Intern Rep Kansas
R G Lovell	Topoka	self

(attachment 1)

REMARKS BY: George L. Marstall, 815 E. 16th St. Terrace,
Ottawa, Kansas 66067
(Member, City Commission, City of Ottawa, since
July 17, 1978; Mayor, April 1981 to April 1982)

Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you for this opportunity to speak
IN SUPPORT of HB 2015

At line 0091.....COMMENT: I support that paragraph (d). Signors of a petition should have that right in a democracy. If they desire to remove their name after signing it and then changing their position they may be reluctant to approach the petition carrier who obtained their signature to ask that their signature be stricken.

At line 0095.....COMMENT: (e) I favor this section and urge adoption of it. If there is widespread support for the subject matter of the petition within a community, the required number of signatures should be obtained within a 90-day time frame.

In the absence of a definite time period, the advocates of a petition can use it as a implied or actual threat in their efforts to force their viewpoint upon a governing body. The sign-up period can go on for months. Such tends to intimidate members of the governing body as they strive to make decisions on varied subjects fulfilling their responsibilities as elected representatives of all the people in their community.

At line 0098.....COMMENT: (f) I support that section with equal enthusiasm as the preceeding paragraphs, for these reasons:

a.) Sponsors of petitions heretofore often think that a petition must be submitted a certain number of days in advance of a primary or general election or else their effort will be ruled for naught. Often times, they do not want a "special election" due to the cost and possible loss of support in incurring such expense.

b.) The proposal places the decision in the hands of the body-elect yet assures that the wishes of the petitioners will not be thwarted in an undemocratic manner.

ELSEWHERE in this Bill....at line 0066 thru 0070....I would have liked to have seen (a) Clear statement of purpose for the petition to bring a question to an election, and (b) Name the group or individuals sponsoring circulation of the petition.

The sponsoring Committee probably considered such. I do commend them for their proposed changes and urge your passage of this measure out of Committee with a favorable majority.

THANK YOU.

Atch. 1

(Attachment 1)

CRH2015p1

PROPOSED COMMITTEE REPORT

Your committee on Elections

Recommends that House Bill No. 2015

Be amended:

On page 3, in line 93, by striking the word "before"; in line 94, by striking "the date" and inserting in lieu thereof "not later than the third day following the date upon which"; in line 106, by striking "statute book" and inserting "Kansas register";

And the bill be passed as amended.

_____Chairperson