

Approved March 24, 1983  
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Local Government

The meeting was called to order by Senator Gaar at  
Chairperson

9:00 a.m. on March 22, 1983 in room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~

Committee staff present: Theresa Kiernan, Joan Mullins

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Dean  
Mark Anson, Merriam, Kansas  
Mary Ellen Conlee, Wichita, Kansas  
Louis A. Silkes, Merriam Drainage District  
Representative Miller  
Mike Hech, Attorney, Eudora Township

Senator Gaar opened the hearing on H.B. 2210, prescribing a dissolution procedure for drainage districts. Representative Dean, Mr. Anson and Ms. Conlee addressed the committee in support of the bill. Mr. Silkes appeared as an opponent. Written testimony distributed by Mr. Silkes is attached (See Attachment I).

Representative Miller and Mr. Hech spoke in support of H.B. 2484, which would authorize a township which has levied a tax for the support of a fire department for at least 15 years to participate in the Firemen's Relief Fund.

Senator Gaar announced that, due to lack of time, hearings on H.B. 2448 and H.B. 2449 would be postponed.

Senator Allen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 17, 1983. Senator Montgomery seconded the motion, and it carried.

The meeting was adjourned to March 23, 1983.

Recorded - J. Mullins - 3/23/83

LAW OFFICES

LOUIS A. SILKS, JR.

SUITE 301 UNITED KANSAS BANK BUILDING

8600 WEST 63RD STREET

SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS 66202

TELEPHONE:

(913) 384-1400

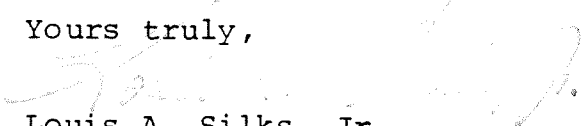
March 10, 1983

Re: Proposed House Bill #2210 (Representative Dean)

On behalf of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, we direct your attention to the above House Bill which has been recommended for passage by the House Local Government Committee. It is our understanding that this bill was proposed because of a local problem in Sedgwick County, however, it would affect all 57 drainage district within the State. The bill provides a procedure for dissolution of a drainage district through petition signed by twenty-five percent of the qualified voters having voted at the last drainage district election. Many drainage district may exercise jurisdiction over substantial land areas with very few residents or voters. Our district, composed of cities of Merriam and Shawnee, elected directors at the last drainage district election by a total of 138 votes. Twenty-five percent of such voters equates to 35 signatures which could authorize dissolution proceedings as provided in the proposed bill. We think this is totally an unreasonable procedure and urge you to oppose the current bill. Frankly, it seems that if a dissolution procedure should be authorized, it should be by petition signed by at least twenty-five percent of the qualified voters of a drainage district requesting that the issue of dissolution be submitted to a vote of the electors.

We were not provided an opportunity to be heard on this particular bill and trust that you will note our exception to the same.

Yours truly,

  
Louis A. Silks, Jr.

LASjr:sg

Atch. 2