

Approved RLH 2-23-88.
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

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

9:00 am a.m./p.m. on Tuesday, February 16, 1988 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Foster, Excused; and,
Representative Littlejohn, Excused.

Committee staff present: Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research
Ron Thornburg, Secretary of State's Office
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statute's Office
Dottie Musselman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Sughrue
Earl Nehring, Common Cause/Kansas

Chairperson Harper called the meeting to order and recognized Representative Sughrue. Representative Sughrue came before the committee giving testimony on HB 2837. HB 2837 is An Act concerning elections; requiring reporting of certain campaign contributions to and expenditures by candidates for county office; prescribing penalties for violations; amending K.S.A. 25-901, 25-904 and 25-905 and repealing the existing sections.

Representative Sughrue told the committee that HB 2837 is needed to insure adequate periodic disclosure on the county level of expenditures and receipts of county candidates, also said that there are no areas of the law more important to the responsive and efficient operations of government than strong and effective disclosure laws. Attachment # 1.

The Chair now recognized Earl Nehring, Common Cause/Kansas. Mr. Nehring came before the committee saying that Common Cause/Kansas supports HB 2837 and asks that the committee recommend it favorably for passage. He stated that this bill would extend the basic elements of the campaign finance reporting statutes by applying them to elections for county offices in Kansas. Attachment # 2.

As there were no questions, the hearing was closed on HB 2837.

The attention of the committee was called to HB 2739. This is An Act relating to precinct boundaries. Attention was directed to the suggested balloon amendment explained by Mr. Coldsnow at the time of hearing on this bill. Discussion followed. Representative Baker made a motion to adopt the balloon amendment as written. Seconded by Representative Helgerson. Motion carried.

Representative Baker made a motion to pass HB 2739 out of committee favorably, as amended. Seconded by Representative Helgerson. Motion carried.

Representative Kline asked to be recorded as abstaining from the vote on HB 2739.

At this time Representative Blumenthal asked that SB 252, a carry-over bill from the 1987 session, be brought up and he moved that this bill be reported favorably for passage. SB 252 is an act relating to state governmental ethics; concerning investigations of complaints by the Kansas Public Disclosure Commission. The Chair asked Representative Blumenthal to address the reason for wanting this bill to be brought up. He told the committee he thought there had been a lot of concern that has been addressed this past year regarding the inability that the Public Disclosure Commission has regarding the ability to obtain documents necessary for investigations. After giving the committee much information as to the need for this bill, Representative Blumenthal again renewed his motion that SB 252 be reported favorable for passage.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections,

room 521-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 am a.m./p.m. on Tuesday, February 16,, 1988

The Chairperson responded by telling Representative Blumenthal that he ruled out the motion at this time because he didn't think that a lot of the members would remember the testimony on this bill, or the hearings and, therefore, he felt it was inappropriate to take a vote on SB 252 at this meeting.

Chairperson Harper did agree to schedule additional hearings on SB 252 to bring the committee up-to-date on it at a later time.

Representative Flottman made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 9, 1988, meeting as written. Seconded by Representative Jenkins. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

STATE OF KANSAS

KATHRYN SUGHRUE
REPRESENTATIVE, 116TH DISTRICT
FORD COUNTY
1809 LA MESA DRIVE
DODGE CITY, KANSAS 67801



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

February 16, 1988

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATION
MEMBER: MIDWESTERN CONFERENCE ON
HEALTH—COMMISSIONER ON
INTERSTATE COOPERATION

RE: H.B. 2837

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Election Committee.

H.B. 2837 amends K.S.A. 25-901, 25-904, and 25-905 to require detailed reporting of expenditures and receipts for county government candidates. Currently county candidates are required to file only an expenditure and receipt statement with the county election official.

Under the present law 25-904 an itemized statement of expenditures is to be filed after the primary and after the general election.

H.B. 2837 would require an itemized statement 6 days before the primary also 6 days before the general election and a termination report.

With this bill a candidate must report the persons name giving the contribution, their address and the amount contributed in excess of \$50.

What benefit is it to the people of Kansas to know after the election where the candidates spent their money. The present statute should be strengthened or repealed.

This is an election year. People expect candidates running for office to be accountable. This is just good government.

I contend that the citizens of Kansas do care about the details of ethics and are concerned about how their tax money is spent.

*Attn #1
2-16-88
Halls Election*

County officials are responsible for large sums of money by county government and make decisions regarding rules and laws of businesses in their county.

There are no areas of the law more important to the responsive and efficient operations of government than strong and effective disclosure laws.

Last year while I was at a District Meeting of business people, government employees, and educators, I was asked why don't county officials report both contributions and expenditures, a grass root request I would say. Guess I am just the conduit for their concern.

We are always interested in the action taken by other states.

Currently the following states require elected county employees to file with a state authority either a state agency similar to the Public Disclosure Commission or the Secretary of State's Office:
Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin.

H.B. 2837 is needed to insure adequate periodic disclosure on the county level of expenditures and receipts of county candidates.



COMMON CAUSE / KANSAS

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February 16, 1988

Statement in support of House Bill 2837
presented to the House Committee on Elections
by Earl Nehring for Common Cause/Kansas

Common Cause/Kansas supports House Bill 2837 and asks that your committee recommend it favorably for passage. Common Cause is based on citizen efforts to open up the political system and to keep it open. Our basic concerns have been to build public support for that system by working for legislation which assures a responsive, accountable government in which citizens can have faith that the public's interests are paramount. To that end we have supported effective campaign finance reporting laws, as well as regulation of lobbying, conflict of interest laws and open government meetings as fundamental needs if public support is to be maintained.

House Bill 2837 would extend the basic elements of the campaign finance reporting statutes by applying them to elections for county offices in Kansas. We believe this is an important step toward achieving accountability at that level of government. Under existing statutes money received and expended in elections for county offices need only be reported after the election is over. The only way such information is useful for voters is if they have it available before an election while they are in the process of evaluating candidates. This bill requires that campaign finance information be reported before both the primary and the general elections. That is simply an essential requirement for any election finance reporting system. It is a great improvement over what is now required.

The impact of money in elections is a matter of public concern in local government just as it is at the state and federal levels. This bill would begin to address that concern at the county level, by making campaign financing information available when it has some utility for Kansas citizens.

*attn #2
2-16-88
House Elections*