

Approved RLH

Date 3-24-88

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 Thursday, March 17, 1988 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representatives Foster, Littlejohn, Helgerson, Larkin, Roy, Russell, and Sawyer; all excused.

Committee staff present: Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department
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
Representative Spaniol
Representative Baker
Richard Funk, Kansas Association of School Boards
Jim Kaup, League of Kansas Municipalities

Chairperson Harper called the meeting to order, and told committee members that this bill which would be considered today, Substitute for HB 2353, had been rereferred back to the committee from Federal and State Affairs. The Chair told the committee that a hearing had been held already, however, he was going to depart from the usual procedure and would allow anyone wishing to speak to this bill have time this morning.

Representative Sughrue was now recognized by the Chair. She came before the committee saying that currently county candidates are required to file only an expenditure and receipt statement with the county election official. She told members that the present statute should be strengthened or repealed, and said that this bill would require an itemized statement 6 days before the primary, also 6 days before the general election and a termination report. The Representative said county officials are responsible for large sums of money by county government, and make decisions regarding rules and laws of businesses in their county. The members were told that the bill of hers was more-less a grass-roots request, because while she was at a District Meeting of business people, government employees, and educators, she was asked why don't county officials report both contributions and expenditures.

Representative Spaniol was next to come before the committee telling them that the intent of this bill was to make the county officials comply to the same rules as the state legislators had to do for years. He told members he thought it was important that the general public be made aware of where their contributions were coming from.

Representative Baker added the comments that Sub. HB 2353 provides that any publicly funded organization that expends funds for political purposes must comply with the campaign finance act, and that many small organizations look to their associations to provide leadership, and expertise on the broad issues of state. Also, for associations who have been given statutory authority to be funded by taxpayers' dollars and then to use those hard-earned dollars in an attempt to influence the outcome of partisan elections is offensive to fundamental principles of fairness.

Richard Funk, Kansas Association of School Boards, was next to appear on Sub. HB 2353. He, at this time, said he would like to offer an amendment, and that would be to delete "New Section 1." Mr. Funk appeared in opposition.

Jim Kaup, League of Kansas Municipalities, was next to appear before the committee. He told members that his organization did not feel that, at any time had they engaged in any conduct that is set out in New Section 1, that

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

room 521-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 am a.m./p.m. on Thursday, March 17, 1988

would trigger the requirements to have this section. Therefore, the organization is in opposition to this bill on section 1, starting with line 23.

A discussion followed. At this time, Representative Baker made a motion to amend Sub. HB 2353 by deleting "and every other person" from New Section 1. Seconded by Representative King. Motion carried.

Representative Blumenthal made a motion to recommend that Sub. HB 2353, as amended, be passed favorably from committee. Seconded by Representative Baker. Motion carried.

Representative Flottman made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the March 15th meeting as written. Seconded by Representative Amos. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.