

Approved January 27-1988
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Senator Gordon at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on January 20, 1988n room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Johnston and Senator Vidricksen who were excused.

Committee staff present: Myrta Anderson - Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan - Revisor of Statutes
Phil Lowe - Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ron Thornburg - Secretary of State

The Chairman stated the purpose for the meeting was to review all the held-over bills from last year that were left in the committee, and also to consider requests for introduction of new bills.

Myrta Anderson from the Legislative Research Department reviewed the following bills:

SB 46 was introduced by Senator Gordon and relates to the recognition of political parties. The bill reduces the number of signatures of qualified electors from two percent to one percent for persons of political parties desiring recognition.

SB 124 was introduced by Senator Winter and relates to the eligibility for nomination concerning district attorneys. The bill would clarify the procedure for filing by petition for district attorney.

SB 126 was introduced by Senators Winter and Yost and relates to campaign finance and the limitations on contributions. The measure would clarify the role of political action committees in elections. Presently there are no limits to the amount that can be accepted by political committees under present law.

SB 148 was introduced by the Local Government Committee last year and relates to the counting of ballots whereby at the discretion of the county election officer the officer may require each election judge to make a midday comparison of the number of ballots and the number of voters shown in the poll book. However, the county election officer shall not release the results of the midday ballot tabulation until after the polls are closed.

SB 199 was introduced by the Committee on Elections at the request of the Secretary of State's office and provides that following a primary election in which some voters were deprived of the right to vote in which case such deprivation would change the result of the election, a judge of the district court in which the primary was held may order that a special election be held to determine the outcome.

SB 221 relates to the registration of voters involving qualified voters to sign a registration form at the polling place and then vote.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections,
room 522-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xx~~/p.m. on January 20, 1988

Ron Thornburg of the Secretary of State's office discussed proposed legislation that their office would like for the House and Senate Elections Committees consider. The proposals they will present to the House would require transmission of federal service ballots no later than 45 days prior to election day and amend K.S.A. 25-1220. Another proposal would require a single application for primary and general election for federal service ballot. The Secretary of State's office would also recommend to amend the 1987 House Bill 2039 so that the election offices do not have to notify the Secretary of State's office of all voting place changes.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the proposals they are recommending to the Senate would amend K.S.A. 25-2708 and pertains to the preservation of ballots for federal and state to 22 months and county, city and township for 6 months. The Secretary of State also requested legislation concerning minor political parties. It was noted that the main reason for requesting the bill was because of a law suit brought against their office. In the law suit the questions were raised about the June 10 filing date for independent candidates; the precinct rule and the limitation on voter affiliation information. The Libertarians disagreed with the early filing date which places a burden on their efforts to gather signatures and that they are required to provide the names of the candidates approximately 60 days before the recognized political parties hold primaries. They claim that this is an unfair burden. Another concern was the "precinct rule" which requires circulators and signers of nominating petitions to reside in the same precinct. Because of modern computers the need for checking voting records by hand has been removed. The final issue raised in the suit is the existence of voter affiliation lists. The minor parties feel that this discriminates against them because they do not have a list of affiliated voters for organizational purposes.

Senator Hoferer moved and Senator Reilly seconded the motion that the proposals as presented by the Secretary of State's office on the preservation of ballots and the minor party legislation be introduced as committee bills. Motion carried.

Senator Hoferer distributed a drafted bill relating to voter registration which would allow the removal of the name of a person from the registration books and the party affiliation lists whenever a notice or mailing which had been mailed to a registered voter is returned as undelivered.

Senator Reilly moved and Senator Bond seconded the motion that the draft as presented by Senator Hoferer be introduced as a committee bill and referred back to committee for consideration. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

