

Approved 3-16-88
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Senator Gordon at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on March 2, 1988 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Vidricksen and Senator Hoferer who were excused.

Committee staff present:

Myrta Anderson, Legislative Research Department
Arden Ensley, Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the committee:

By motion of Senator Bond and second by Senator Strick the minutes of February 24, 1988, were approved.

The Chairman announced this would be the last meeting to consider Senate Bills and that we would consider taking action on all Senate bills still in committee.

SB 124 - Relating to the eligibility for nomination of district attorneys. After committee discussion no action was taken on SB 124.

SB 126 - Relating to campaign finance and the limitations on contributions. The committee did not take any action on the bill.

SB 148 - Relating to the counting of ballots. No action was taken.

SB 199 - Concerning the contest of primary elections. After committee discussion no action was taken on SB 199.

SB 221 - Relates to the registration of voters. Senator Martin moved and Senator Strick seconded the motion to recommend SB 221 favorably for passage. Committee discussion followed. In answer to a question Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State's office, said that their office objected to this legislation on the grounds that it would create tremendous problems at the polling places. He added when the people who are not registered come in to vote it could delay the final count for several weeks by the time the county election officer has a chance to determine whether he or she is a legal qualified voter.

A substitute motion to adjourn until tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. was made by Senator Reilly and seconded by Senator Bond. The Chairman ruled the motion carried. Division was called for and by a show of hands the Chair then ruled the motion lost.

Senator Norvell said he thought there were problems with the bill and offered a conceptual motion to amend K.S.A. 25-2311 to change 20 days to 10 days prior to an election day for the closing of registration books. Senator Johnston seconded the motion.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections,
room 522-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on March 2, 1988

After committee discussion and being advised by the Secretary of State's office that the 10 days would be a hardship on election offices Senator Norvell withdrew his substitute motion and Senator Johnston withdrew his second.

Senator Johnston then offered a substitute motion to change 20 days to 15 days for closing registration books prior to an election. Senator Martin seconded the motion. By a show of hands the Chair ruled the substitute motion carried by a vote of 4 - 2.

The revisor pointed out that SB 221 would now be written as a Substitute Bill to include a new section but it changes nothing in the language of the original 221. (Attachment 1)

Senator Johnston moved and Senator Martin seconded the motion to recommend the Substitute Senate Bill 221 favorably for passage. Motion carried.

SB 540 - Concerning state governmental ethics relating to registration of lobbyists. No committee action was taken.

SB 582 - Concerns presidential preference primary elections. At the February 17 meeting the Chairman, Senator Gordon, appointed a subcommittee and named Senator Vidricksen as Chairman, Senator Reilly and Senator Martin as members of a subcommittee to study SB 582 and report back to the committee.

In the absence of the subcommittee Chairman, Senator Vidricksen, Senator Gordon stated the committee should delay action on the bill at this time. Senator Gordon pointed out that the subcommittee had sent out questionnaires to about 250 first and second class cities requesting information as to whether there were any problems in holding local elections to coincide with the presidential primary election as this was considered to be a cost saving procedure. After discussion the committee agreed to withhold action on SB 582 until the subcommittee was ready to report on their findings.

SB 601 - Concerns the membership of state party committees. After committee discussion Senator Bond moved and Senator Strict seconded the motion to pass SB 601 favorably for passage. Motion carried.

SB 619 - Relating to the filing of treasurer's reports. After consideration Senator Martin moved to recommend SB 619 favorably for passage. The motion had no second.

The meeting was adjourned.

Substitute for SENATE BILL NO. 221

By Committee on Elections

AN ACT concerning elections; relating to the registration of voters; amending K.S.A. 25-2311 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 25-2311 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2311. (a) County election officers shall provide for the registration of voters at one or more places on all days except the following:

(1) Days when the main offices of the county government are closed for business, except as is otherwise provided by any county election officer under the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2312, and amendments thereto.

(2) Days when the main offices of the city government are closed for business, in the case of deputy county election officers who are city clerks except as is otherwise provided by any county election officer under the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2312, and amendments thereto.

(3) The 20 15 days preceding the day of primary and general state elections.

(4) The 20 15 days preceding the day of primary city and school elections, if either has a primary.

(5) The 20 15 days preceding each first Tuesday in April of odd-numbered years, being the day of city and school general elections.

(6) The 20 15 days preceding the day of any election other than one specified in paragraphs (3), (4) and (5) of this subsection.

(7) The day of any primary or general election or any question submitted election.

(b) For the purposes of this section in counting days that registration books are to be closed, all of the days including Sunday and legal holidays shall be counted.

(c) The secretary of state shall notify every county election officer of the dates when registration shall be closed preceding primary and general state, city and school elections. The days so specified by the secretary of state shall be conclusive. Such notice shall be given by the secretary of state by mail at least 60 days preceding every primary and general state, city and school election.

(d) The last days before closing of registration books as directed by the secretary of state under subsection (c) of this section, county election officers shall provide for registration of voters during regular business hours, during the noon hours and at other than regular business hours upon such days as the county election officers deem necessary. The last three business days before closing of registration books prior to state primary and general elections, county election officers shall provide for registration of voters until 9:00 p.m. in cities of the first and second class.

(e) The secretary of state may adopt rules and regulations interpreting the provisions of this section and specifying the days when registration shall be open, days when registration shall be closed, and days when it is optional with the county election officer for registration to be open or closed.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-2311 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.