

Approved

2-13-89
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Senator Don Sallee at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 7, 1989, 19 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Fred Kerr

Committee staff present:

Myrta Anderson, Research Department
Fred Carman, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Elizabeth Handke, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Carol Williams, Public Disclosure Commission
Michael Woolf, Common Cause Organization

Others attending: see attached list (attachment 1)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sallee at 1:40 P.M.

Carol Williams of the Public Disclosure Commission appeared as a proponent to S.B. 137 (attachment 2). She stated that the bill would require candidates in less than statewide races to file campaign finance reports with the Secretary of State and with the election officers of their home counties.

Michael Woolf of Common Cause also appeared as a proponent to S. B. 137 (attachment 3). He stated if this bill was enacted, it would make campaign finance information readily available to the local press and general public, whereas now it is only available through the Secretary of State's office in Topeka.

Senator Rock requested legislation that would prohibit a person from actively campaigning while delivering absentee ballots. Senator Rock moved to introduce this legislation and Senator Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:52.

STATE OF KANSAS



KANSAS PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
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Testimony Before Senate Elections Committee on SB 137

By Carol Williams, KS Public Disclosure Commission

The new language contained in Section 1 of SB 137 is a recommendation made by the Kansas Public Disclosure Commission in its "1988 Annual Report and Recommendations". SB 137 would require candidates in less than statewide races to file campaign finance reports with the Secretary of State and with the election officers of their home counties.

The Kansas Public Disclosure Commission believes that one of its purposes in the campaign finance area is to provide the public with timely and accurate information needed for knowledgeable participation in state elections. Currently all state candidate campaign finance reports are filed in Topeka. Local citizens and media representatives must come to Topeka to review these reports. Due to the timing of the report filings, it is almost impossible for most citizens to get access to candidates' reports prior to an election.

If state candidates filed a copy of their campaign report with their home county election officers, citizens across the state would have access to timely financial information which

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they can review and disseminate prior to an election.

Without provisions for easier access to campaign finance reports, the value of the disclosure element of the Act is thwarted. Simple and convenient access to reports should be provided to any interested person.

The Commission urges the Committee to pass Section 1 of SB 137 favorably.

The Commission's General Counsel suggests that the new language in Section 2 is inappropriate because the section being amended deals with independent expenditures, while the language that is used concerns expenditures made on behalf of a candidate. This makes the two mutually exclusive. Therefore, our Counsel suggests that Section 2 be deleted.

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COMMON CAUSE / KANSAS

701 Jackson, Room B-6 • Topeka, Kansas 66603

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Statement in support of Senate Bill 137
Presented to the Senate Committee on Elections
by Michael Woolf, Executive Director

Common Cause/Kansas supports Senate Bill 137 and asks that your committee recommend it favorably for passage. Common Cause is based on citizen efforts to open up the political system and 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 meetings as fundamental needs if public support is to be maintained.

Senate Bill 137 would require candidates to file a copy of their campaign finance report with the local county election officials in the counties where the campaign is being conducted. We believe that this proposal is an important step toward public access of information concerning how candidates raise campaign funds, where that money comes from, and how it is spent during the campaign. If enacted, this bill would make campaign finance information readily available to the local press and general public, whereas now it is only available through the Secretary of State's office here in Topeka.

The impact of money in elections is a matter of public concern. Currently campaign finance reports are available to the public, but not readily accessible. Senate Bill 137 corrects that problem, and we, therefore, ask for its adoption.

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