

Approved 2-5-90
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 January 29, 1990 in room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~

Committee staff present:

Pat Mah, Legislative Research Department
Ardan Ensley, Revisor of Statutes Office
Clarene Wilms, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Michael Woolf, Common Cause

Others attending: see attached list

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Don Sallee shortly after 1:30 p.m.

Michael Woolf appeared as a conferee and presented written testimony on SCR-1627 concerning campaign finance and governmental ethics. Mr. Woolf told the Committee that Common Cause/Kansas did not oppose the resolution but would prefer to see consideration of all of the proposals being introduced given further study and consideration, especially the establishment of a select committee which would study the issue in depth. (Attachment 1)

Senator Reilly, Chairman of the Interim Committee on Federal and State Affairs/Governmental Organization, noted the entire issue was dealt with during the interim session adding that both the House and Senate were concerned with the ethics issue. Consequently, the interim committee adopted the resolution concerning appointment of a council or special committee to set standards for conduct of legislators and procedures to be followed as well as disciplinary action to be taken, the need for a balance and recognition that there is a standard. Concerns about discouraging persons interested in seeking public office were expressed.

Senator Bond presented the subcommittee report on SB-417. The subcommittee, made up of Senators Bond, F. Kerr, Johnston, and Lee recommended increasing the membership from 10 to 11 with the 11th person being the Secretary of State or a person designated to serve by the Secretary of State. A second recommendation dealt with change on page 2, line 11 striking the word "conflict" and inserting in lieu thereof "all aspects of governmental ethics including but not limited to conflicts". (Attachment 2)

Senator Bond moved adoption of the subcommittee report with a second by Senator Reilly. The motion carried.

Further discussion noted a recurring issue as to whether the Legislature of Kansas should be a citizen's legislature part time or whether it should be a full time legislature. It was further suggested that the review of compensation and expenses of legislators be a part of the consideration when reviewing the issue. Another committee member noted concern this would divert attention from the ethics issue.

Senator Bond moved to place language in Section 2 that would ask this commission to review compensation and expenses.

It was suggested that the motion include pensions and Senator Bond stated he was agreeable to the change.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS,

room 529-SStatehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on January 29, 1990.

Senator Lee seconded the motion.

Opposition was voiced with the comment that discussion of compensation is not specifically prohibited but adding it to a laundry list would insure consideration. The opinion was also expressed that such a change would seriously damage the bill.

Senator Reilly noted the interim committee's decision was almost unanimous that the demands and problems of the state did not warrant a full time legislature.

A further comment was made that if everything was to be studied the list should include pensions since ethics would include the pension issue.

The sub-committee was reactivated for an additional day to consider adding additional language to SB-417.

The chairperson suggested anyone with ideas or suggestions provide them to a member of the subcommittee.

Senator Kerr moved approval of the January 22 and January 23, 1990 minutes with a second by Senator Bond. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

GUEST LIST

SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

DATE January 29, 1990

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME AND ADDRESS

Mike McEwry

John Hanna, Lebo

John Marshall, Lincoln

Paul Williams

Michael Wolf, Topeka

Milan Lambertson

M. Hauber

Kerwin Kelly

C. Owens

T Hart

Rod Suffer

ORGANIZATION

KRPS-FM, Pittsburg

Joe's Truck Parts Emporium

Harris Enterprises

KPRC

Common Cause

Common Cause

Toda-Cap-Journal

OP Seen

INTERV

Journal-World

University Daily Kansas



COMMON CAUSE / KANSAS

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January 29, 1990

Statement on Senate Concurrent Resolution 1627
Presented to the Senate Committee on Elections
by Michael Woolf, Executive Director

Common Cause works for the enactment of laws that will increase the governmental ethics standards in our state and nation. Specifically in the areas of campaign finance, conflict of interest, lobbying laws and adequate enforcement procedures.

Currently, the House of Representatives has introduced two bills; one dealing with the Campaign Finance Act and the other with governmental ethics. It is also my understanding that there are several proposals in the House that have not yet been introduced.

There has also been discussion in this Committee to set up a select commission on ethical conduct.

While Common Cause does not oppose this Resolution, we would prefer that the Legislature address as many of the proposals that have been and will be introduced in the House as is possible this session, and then have a select commission, such as that proposed in SB 417, to further study the more indepth proposals.

Once again, we do not oppose SCR 1627, but we believe that cooperation between the House and Senate this session plus the select commission is a better way of dealing with the issues.

*Senate Elections
1-29-90
Attachment 1*

PROPOSED COMMITTEE REPORT

Be amended:

On page 1, in line 19, by striking "10" and inserting "11"; in line 33, by striking the word "and"; in line 37, by striking the period and inserting "; and"; following line 37, by inserting the following:

"(7) one member who shall be the secretary of state or a person designated or appointed by the secretary of state."

On page 2, in line 11, by striking the word "conflict" and inserting in lieu thereof "all aspects of governmental ethics including but not limited to conflicts";

And the bill be passed as amended.

Chairperson

Subcommittee