

Approved 3-7-91
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Representative Tom Sawyer at
Chairperson

9:15 a.m./p.m. on Wednesday, March 6th, 1991 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Pat Mah, Research
Arden Ensley, Revisor
Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Ed McKechnie
Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State

The House Elections Committee was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6th by Chairman Tom Sawyer.

The Chair directed the attention of the committee to written testimony presented by the League of Women Voters on HB 2022. (Attachment 1a)

Chairman Sawyer next called for continuation of hearings on HB 2174 and asked for Representative McKechnie to present his testimony.

Representative McKechnie offered an amendment to the bill by striking the words "public office" on line 4 of page 2 and inserting the words "state or county office". This language was encouraged by several County Clerks. (Attachment 1)

Ron Thornburgh, from the Office of the Secretary of State, presented testimony in opposition to HB 2174. He stated invalid registrations, duplicates and fraud would be of major concern to the security of the electoral system. (Attachment 2)

Following questions by the committee, hearings were closed on all election bills, HB 2022, HB 2174, HB 2291, HB 2292, and HB 2326.

Hearings were then opened on HB 2325, concerning blank lines for write-in votes for electors of presidential candidates.

The Chair called on Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State's office, to present his testimony in support of HB 2325. The Secretary of State, however, did have some concerns about the funding of the project, and would request postponing implementation of the primary until 1996 if adequate funding was not available. (Attachment 3)

Following questions by the committee, the chair declared hearings closed on HB 2325.

The Chair then called for final action on HB 2325. Representative Jones made a motion that HB 2325 be passed as amended. This was seconded by Representative Wells.

Representative Shallenburger made a substitute motion that sections 3 and 4 be stricken, and return the bill back to its original form, seconded by Representative McKechnie. The substitute motion was put to a vote and was passed on a 14-3 vote. Representative Cates wished his "no" vote to be recorded.

Representative Shallenburger made a motion to table HB 2325 until January 25, 1992, seconded by Representative Scott. Following discussion of this motion a vote was called for and the motion failed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections,

room 521 Statehouse, at 9:15 a.m./p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 1991.

Representative Jones made a motion that HB 2325 be passed as amended, seconded by Representative Macy and the motion carried.

HB 2070, the mail ballot election bill, was next presented for discussion and final action.

Representative McKechnie offered an amendment to insert, on line 18, following "shall be held", "within 90 days of requested date". This was seconded by Representative Macy.

There were some questions from the committee, and the Secretary of State's office, if this wording would be correct. Representative McKechnie made a conceptual motion that would allow the Revisor, Arden Ensley, and the Secretary of State's office to work out the exact wording, however the intent of the amendment would remain the same. This was seconded by Representative Love and the motion carried. Representative McKechnie made a motion to pass HB 2070 as amended, seconded by Representative Jones and the motion carried.

The Chair called for discussion and final action on HB 2022, concerning application for voter registration as part of application for drivers' licenses. The Office of the Secretary of State submitted an amendment to this bill by striking subsection (2), line 29, and subsection (c), line 40; adding language to the new subsection (d), line 3 on page 2 and adding a date to Sec. 2, line 7. (Attachment 4)

Representative Shallenburger made a motion to amend HB 2022 as stated, seconded by Representative Parkinson.

Representative Love offered an amendment that would change the date of inception to July 1, 1992 instead of January 1, 1993. This was seconded by Representative McKechnie. Following discussion by the committee Representative Love withdrew his motion.

Representative Baker made a conceptual motion that a statement should be printed at the bottom of the registration card that fraudulently voting was a Class A misdemeanor with the penalty not to exceed 1 year in jail and/or a fine not to exceed \$2,500. This was seconded by Representative Jones and the motion passed.

Representative Love made a motion that HB 2022 be passed as amended, seconded by Representative McKechnie.

Representative King made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Representative Baker. A vote was called for and the motion failed.

A motion was made by Representative Jones to call for the question, seconded by Representative McKechnie and the motion carried.

A vote was taken on the motion by Representative Love to pass HB 2022 as amended and the motion carried. Representative Shallenburger requested his "yes" vote be recorded.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

The next meeting of the House Elections Committee will be on Thursday, March 7th, 1991 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 521-S.

LWVK

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS

919½ South Kansas Avenue Topeka, KS 66612 (913) 234-5152

March 5, 1991

STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS IN SUPPORT OF HB 2022.

Representative Tom Sawyer, Chairman:

I am very sorry that I missed the hearing on HB 2022. I thought it was to be held March 7th.

The League strongly supports providing applications to register to vote while applying for a driver's license.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas conducted a citizen survey of over 4,500 Kansans in the fall of 1989. Regional meetings were held at the conclusion of the survey as well as a statewide conference at K.U. on "Why Don't Americans Vote?". All of the participants said over and over that "motor voter" was a great idea whose time had come.

Of all of the barriers to voting as perceived by citizens, changing the way Kansans register to vote would eliminate one of them. It can easily be done, and then we can turn our attention to some of the more difficult issues such as real campaign finance reform and economic and geographic voting disparity.

The League urges your quick consideration of HB 2022.

Thank you very much.

Ann Hebbinger
Ann Hebbinger, Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Kansas



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

March 5, 1991

ED McKECHNIE

REPRESENTATIVE, THIRD DISTRICT

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VICE CHAIRMAN: COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATION
AND TECHNOLOGYMEMBER: ELECTIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TRANSPORTATION
PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS AND
BENEFITSTestimony of Rep. Ed McKechnie
To the House Elections Committee
House Bill 2174

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2174, an act which would ease the registration of voters at their place of residence.

Let me review the current law. First, an application for registration must be signed by the individual and that form delivered to the County Election Officer. The second step is for the Election Officer to then send the voter an application card. The third step is for the individual to return the card to the election officer. Finally the fourth step is for the election officer to return the approved voter registration card to the individual.

H.B. 2174 eases that process by allowing the Election Officer to appoint any person, and requiring the appointment of any qualified candidate in the county, as a deputy county election officer for the purpose of registering qualified voters at their place of residence only. This will streamline the process of registering voters at their place of residence by removing the requirement that an application be filled out and returned to the election officer.

The duly appointed person would merely have the perspective voter fill out the registration card at their home; return it to the election officer; and the election officer would then mail the approved voter registration card to the individual. Thereby easing the process and hopefully registering more voters.

Mr. Chairman I would encourage the committee to consider an amendment to the bill by striking the words "public office" on line 2 of page 2, and inserting the words "state or county office". This language was encouraged by several County Clerks.



Bill Graves
Secretary of State

2nd Floor, State Capitol
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(913) 296-2236

STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH
HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 1991

House Bill 2174

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of Secretary of State Graves.

We are opposed to House Bill 2174. Door to door registration, whether by candidates or anyone else is not a safe way to register voters. Invalid registrations, duplicates and fraud would be of major concern to the security of the electoral system.

Voter registration, when conducted at a specific site, by individuals trained to work the site can be monitored and supervised by the county election officer.

Our current system of voter registration, which has expanded greatly in the past few years, is reaching more and more voters. We are trying to expand even more this year with motor voter and state agency based registration. We urge you to consider the other options before you this year.

House Elections Committee
Attachment 2
3-6-91

Bill Graves
Secretary of State



2nd Floor, State Capitol
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STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH
HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 6, 1991

House Bill 2325 As Amended

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of Secretary of State Graves.

This office has always supported a Presidential Preference Primary and will continue to support efforts to let the people of Kansas vote at a primary for the office of President. We do, however, have some concerns about the funding of the project. If those concerns are not met, we would agree to postpone implementation of the primary until 1996.

Under no circumstances should the state of Kansas pass the cost of a presidential primary onto county government. If the state cannot afford a primary, it should be postponed.