

Approved 3 - 27 - 91
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

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

9:12 a.m./p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 1991 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Elizabeth Baker, excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rebecca Bossemeyer, Office of the Secretary of State
Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State

The House Elections Committee was called to order by Chairman Tom Sawyer at 9:12 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26th, 1991.

The minutes for the meetings of March 21st and 22nd were presented for approval. Representative Jones made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Representative Shallenburger and the motion carried.

The Chair opened hearings on SB 83, concerning removal of names from registration books and party affiliation lists.

Ron Thornburgh appeared before the committee on behalf of Secretary of State Graves. They suggested striking the language in lines 14-40 and amend the provision of HB 2326, which has already passed the House, into this bill. (Attachment 1)

He next offered testimony on SB 85, concerning withdrawal of a person's name from nomination. This bill would change the number of days in which a person nominated at the primary election for national or state office has to withdraw following the Board of Canvassers meeting from ten to three days. (Attachment 2)

Following questions from the committee, the Chair declared hearings closed on SB 83 and SB 85.

Hearings were then opened on SB 84, concerning appointment of judges and clerks on election boards.

Rebecca Bossemeyer, from the Office of the Secretary of State, presented written testimony in support of this bill. She stated that using 16 and 17 year olds to be poll workers provided a tool to increase voter education among the youth of Kansas while creating a larger pool of potential board workers for the county election officers. (Attachment 3).

Following testimony she stood for questions from the committee.

The Chair declared hearings closed on SB 84.

Chairman Sawyer directed the committee's attention to HB 2454, section 12 (b). He wanted verification from the Revisor that this section stated clearly the intentions of the committee. After discussion it was recommended the Revisor will make an amendment and insert, following individual, the words "political committee or political party". This wording should clarify the intent of section 12.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting of the House Elections Committee will be Wednesday, March 27th, 9:00 a.m. in Room 521-S.



Bill Graves
Secretary of State

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STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH
HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 26, 1991

Senate Bill 83

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

Senate Bill 83 is a very important piece of legislation which changes the reasons to purge an individual from the voter registration and party affiliation lists.

Sections "a" and "b" regard persons who have changed their name. We suggest you strike the language in lines 14-40 and amend the provisions of House Bill 2326, which has already passed the House, into this bill. House Bill 2326 is a much cleaner version of the same idea.

Section "c" removes the requirement that a person be removed from the voter registration and party affiliation lists for not voting. In light of current Federal and State legislation aimed at increasing voter registration, we are trying to make it easier for those who are registered to stay registered. Failure to vote will cause the county election officer to send a notice to the person to verify their address. Only if the notice is returned as undeliverable will the person be purged from the registration and party affiliation lists.

The net effect of this legislation is that citizens will no longer be barred from voting for changing their name and those who choose not to vote in a general election will remain on the voter registration rolls as long as they are qualified to vote.

We strongly urge your approval of this legislation and ask that you consider it favorable for passage.

Thank you.

House Elections Committee
Attachment 1
3-26-91

SENATE BILL No. 83

By Committee on Elections

1-30

8 AN ACT relating to elections; concerning removal of names of voters
9 from voter registration books and party affiliation lists; amending
10 K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 25-2316c and repealing the existing section;
11 also repealing K.S.A. 25-2316d.

12
13 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

14 Section 1. ~~K.S.A. 1990 Supp. 25-2316c is hereby amended to~~
15 ~~read as follows: 25-2316c. (a) When a registered voter changes name~~
16 ~~by marriage, divorce or legal proceeding, such voter must reregister~~
17 ~~in order to be eligible to vote, except that when a registered voter~~
18 ~~legally changes name during the period of 30 days preceding~~
19 ~~an election, such voter shall be allowed to vote at such any election~~
20 ~~on the condition that such voter first gives an affidavit to the election~~
21 ~~judges stating the facts relevant to such change of name. Upon~~
22 ~~receipt of an affidavit of change of name, the county election officer~~
23 ~~shall send to the address specified on the affidavit, by forwardable~~
24 ~~first-class mail, a notice that it is necessary to reregister to vote.~~
25 ~~The notice also shall include voter registration materials if the voter~~
26 ~~is still a resident of the county of original registration. The notice~~
27 ~~authorized by this subsection shall be on a form prescribed by the~~
28 ~~secretary of state.~~

29 ~~(b) When a registered voter changes residence, such voter must~~
30 ~~reregister in order to be eligible to vote, except that when a reg-~~
31 ~~istered voter changes residence from one place in a precinct to~~
32 ~~another place within the same precinct during the period of 30 days~~
33 ~~preceding an election, such voter shall be allowed to vote at such~~
34 ~~election on the condition that such voter first gives an affidavit to~~
35 ~~the election judges stating the facts relevant to such change of res-~~
36 ~~idence. Whenever the county election officer receives from any elec-~~
37 ~~tion officer a notice of registration of a voter in a different place~~
38 ~~than that shown in the records of the county election officer, such~~
39 ~~officer shall remove the name of such voter from the registration~~
40 ~~book and party affiliation list.~~

41 (c) When a voter fails to vote at a general election at which
42 members of the United States presidential electoral college are

Insert language
from HB 2326

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STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH
HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 26, 1991

Senate Bill 85

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

Senate Bill 85 changes the number of days in which a person nominated at the primary election for national or state office has to withdraw following the board of canvassers meeting from ten to three days. We are asking for this change because the current ten day deadline unnecessarily extends the process. This extension does not allow us to print ballots and send federal service absentee ballots in a timely manner.

The deadline to withdraw prior to the primary election will remain June 10, 12:00 Noon.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

Thank you.

House Elections Committee
Attachment 2
3-26-91

Bill Graves
Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA BOSSEMEYER
HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 26, 1991

Senate Bill 84

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

Senate Bill 84, which allows 16 and 17 year olds to be poll workers, provides us with a tool to increase voter education among the youth of Kansas. It will also create a larger pool of potential board workers for the county election officers.

Secretary Graves has always believed that the key to increasing voter participation is through voter education. Sixteen and seventeen year olds will build a lifetime of voting habits through this first-hand experience.

Because the election board worker system is partisan by nature, we will use teen-age poll workers only after the county chairs' recommendations have been exhausted.

An added benefit to this piece of legislation is the larger pool of potential board workers. It is becoming an increasing problem throughout the nation, and Kansas is no exception, for county election officials to recruit board workers. In the 1990 election the Thomas County Clerk made 486 phone calls to recruit 86 board workers.

We strongly urge your approval of this legislation and ask that you consider it favorable for passage.

Thank you.

House Elections Committee
Attachment 3
3-26-91