

Approved 4-1-91
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

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

9:10 a.m./p.m. on Friday, March 29th, 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:

Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State
Representative Tom Thompson
Senator Janis Lee

The House Elections Committee was called to order at 9:10 a.m. on Friday, March 29th, 1991 by Chairman Tom Sawyer.

The minutes of the meeting on March 27th were presented for approval or correction. Representative Wells made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Macy and the motion carried.

The Chair opened hearings on HCR 5018, relating to members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and called on Ron Thornburgh from the Office of the Secretary of State.

He rose in support of House Concurrent Resolution 5018, stating that although there are some valid arguments against this resolution, Secretary Graves strongly believes in the limitation of terms. He further stated that the people of Kansas deserve the best possible representation and that can only happen with a limitation on the terms of office holders. (Attachment 1)

Representative Tom Thompson, a co-sponsor of the bill, rose in support of HCR 5018. He stated that while campaigning and talking with his constituents, he heard a desire for some term limitations and a need for new blood and new ideas.

Following questions by the committee the Chair declared hearings closed on HCR 5018.

Hearings were next opened on SB 325, concerning areas to be served by the same voting place.

Senator Janis Lee appeared before the committee as a sponsor and proponent of this bill. She stated that in small precincts secrecy of ballots was always a concern. This bill would require a precinct with less than 20 registered voters to be consolidated with an adjoining precinct, or other precincts in a single area, in order to be served by a common voting place. It would also require that two or more precincts, with less than 20 registered voters, deposit identical ballots in the same ballot box. She stated this bill would minimize the possibility of identifying ballots cast by any voter.

She stood for questions from the committee.

The Chair declared hearings closed on SB 325.

The Chair announced that hearings would be held on two bills on Monday and final action on previously heard bills.

The House Elections Committee was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting of the House Elections Committee will be Monday, April 1st, 1991, 9:00 a.m. in Room 521-S.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

Bill Graves
Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony of Ron Thornburgh
House Elections Committee
March 29, 1991

HCR 5018

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

I appear today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 5018. Although there are some valid arguments against this resolution, Secretary Graves strongly believes in the limitation of terms.

He believes that there are a large number of Kansans capable of distinguished public service. Unfortunately, the current system tends to create a fraternal network that often prevents qualified people from seeking office.

Secretary Graves also deeply believes in the concept of the citizen legislature. Term limitations will help restore the citizen to the legislature and prevent the increasing encroachment of the professional politician.

One of the main goals of the Select Commission on Ethical conduct was to level the playing field for all candidates for office. This can't be done as long as incumbents enjoy their inherent advantage. By simply answering their mail or their telephone, they have an unfair edge over their opponents.

This inherent disadvantage works to stem the free flow of ideas in our system. Turnover will bring innovation to the political process. Everyone in Kansas, as well as the residents of a particular district, will benefit by an infusion of new people and new ideas.

In closing, we urge your favorable recommendation of HCR 5018. We owe the people of Kansas the best possible representation. That can only happen with a limitation on the terms of office holders.