

Approved 2-19-91
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR DON SALLEE at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on February 12, 1991 in room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~xxxx~~ or excused:

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State

Others attending: See attached list

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

Ron Thornburgh, office of the Secretary of State, appeared concerning SB 98 which would allow the office of the Secretary of State to prescribe the ballot format in essentially the same form set out in KSA 25-616. Changing technology has necessitated the use of a somewhat different format.

SB 98 would also allow counties using paper ballots to print all ballots on one page as is currently done by those counties using mark sense technology. This would result in a cost savings for the counties and would cause less confusion, both for the voter and the board workers. (Attachment 1)

Discussion touched on size of paper, cost and the optional issues. Mr. Thornburgh noted using one kind of ballot stock would be more economical and the optional issue was requested by the counties.

Staff reminded the committee that should everything be printed on one ballot they would need to address the identifying marks and the torn, defaced and mutilated issue.

Discussion touched on the position of the office of the Secretary of State concerning the repeal of KSA 25-3002 (b)2 and (b)3 as well as moving the voter's box to the left rather than on the far right as prescribed by statute. It was noted the ballot layout that every voter sees is the same, that is the same sequence of offices. There is, however, a little difference in the types of machines. The write-in arrangements may vary.

Senator Bond moved to amend the bill to include some deletions from KSA 25-3002 relating to identifying marks that make ballots void as well as the defaced, torn and mutilated issue, and to strike those portions from subsection KSA 25-3002 (b)2 and (b)3 relating to canvassers. Senator Lee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Senator Rock moved that the bill be amended to place the box on the left. Senator Martin seconded the motion.

Discussion noted scanners work with the box on the left and with those counted manually it should not cause difficulties. The motion carried.

Senator Bond moved to pass the bill out favorable as amended. Senator Lee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Senator Kerr reaffirmed that the bill would be held one day providing the office of the Secretary of State an opportunity to contact various counties.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

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.

GUEST LIST

SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

DATE February 12, 1991

(PLEASE PRINT)
NAME AND ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

Teresa Floerching
Michael Wolff Topeka
Ron Thornburg "

Division of the Budget
Common Cause
SOS

Bill Graves
Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH
SENATE ELECTION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 12, 1991

Senate Bill 98

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 98 allows the office of the Secretary of State to prescribe the ballot format in substantially the same form set out in K.S.A. 25-616. This change will allow our office to make changes to the ballot required by changing technology.

Senate Bill 98 will also allow paper ballot counties to print all ballots on one page as is currently done by those counties using mark sense technology. This change will result in a cost savings for the counties and will be less confusing for both the voter and the board workers because fewer ballots will have to be handled.

Again, thank you, and I ask that you report this bill favorable for action.

Senate Elections
February 12, 1991
Attachment 1