

Approved 4-1-91  
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 March 25, 1991 in room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~:

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 chairman called the meeting to order shortly after 1:30 p.m.

HB-2071 - Elections; closing of voter registration books and changing of party affiliation.

Ron Thornburgh appeared before the committee noting the bill made a very minor change in statutes. House Bill No. 2071 changes the number of days prior to the election that voter registration and party affiliation books must close. (Attachment 1) This change would avoid confusion among voters as to the final day they may register to vote.

HB-2079 - Prohibiting the inclusion of campaign literature in the transmission of absentee ballots.

Ron Thornburgh told committee members HB-2079 would prohibit the enclosure of campaign materials in an absentee ballot and also would prohibit the delivery of campaign material in case someone is delivering an absentee ballot by hand. (Attachment 2)

Discussion concerned the possibility of amending sub-section (f) to avoid the use of persuasion or influence when delivering absentee ballots.

The chairman requested the wishes of the committee concerning HB-2071.

Senator Martin moved to put HB-2071 on the Consent Calendar. Senator Reilly seconded the motion and the motion carried.

There was discussion concerning HB-2029 and whether county clerks or county election officers should be allowed to deliver ballots and possibly campaign for a candidate at the same time.

A motion was made by Senator Lee to include not only written literature but "vocal" to the language. Senator Rock seconded the motion.

A substitute motion was made by Senator Reilly to restrict the language to election officers and county clerks as follows: "Nothing in this section should be construed as meaning any other person delivering absentee ballots cannot campaign when delivering absentee ballots. Senator Yost seconded the substitute motion.

Senator Reilly amended his substitute motion to include county clerks or election officers or employees.

Ron Thornburgh noted that in his opinion, the proposed amendment would

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS,

room 529-S, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on March 25, 1991

tie the hands of election officers and did not address the problem seen in the last election. The bill as amended would not allow campaign literature or oral information being given by the county clerk or elections officers or their employees.

The question was called and the substitute motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Bond to table HB-2079. Senator Reilly seconded the motion.

Discussion followed as to what is required to remove a bill from the table.

Senator Bond withdrew his motion and it was agreed to hold the bill for a few days.

Senator Martin moved approval of the minutes of March 18 and 19, 1991. Senator Lee seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for March 26, 1991.

GUEST LIST

SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

DATE March 25, 1991

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME AND ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

Kon Thornburg

SOS

Rebecca Bossemeyer Topeka

SOS

Teresa Flaerchinger Topeka

Division of the Budget

Carika A. Metwiler Topeka

Intern

Michael Wolf "

CCRS

Paul Williams

KPDC

Craig Grant "

K-NEA

Bill Graves  
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## STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH  
SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 25, 1991

House Bill 2071

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

House Bill 2071 changes the number of days prior to an election voter registration and party affiliation books must close. Current law, prescribed last session, requires voter registration and party affiliation books to close 15 days prior to an election.

We are asking you to change the deadline to 14 days simply to avoid confusion among the voters as to the final day to register to vote. Because the 15th day prior to an election is a Sunday, many voter registration outposts were not available to register voters. By moving the deadline to the 14th day prior to an election, the last day to register will always be the second Monday prior to the election and most voter registration outposts will be open.

Senate Elections  
March 25, 1991  
Attachment 1

Bill Graves  
Secretary of State



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## STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH  
SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
MARCH 25, 1991

House Bill 2079

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

House Bill 2079 prohibits the enclosure of any campaign material in an absentee ballot envelope. We experienced a problem last year when a candidate for office requested absentee ballots on behalf of voters and then stuffed the envelope with campaign material. We feel this is very much like campaigning at the polling place, which is prohibited.

The voters of this state have the right to vote an absentee ballot, just as they have the right to vote a traditional ballot, without the unnecessary influence of political campaigns. This proposal will insure that right.

In conclusion, we ask that you report House Bill 2079 favorable for action as amended.

Senate Elections  
March 25, 1991  
Attachment 2