

Approved 2-27-92
Date

MINUTES OF THE House COMMITTEE ON Elections

The meeting was called to order by Representative Sherman Jones at
Chairperson

9:11 a.m./p.m. on February 19, 1992 in room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Bishop (excused)
Representative Parkinson (excused)
Representative Stephens (excused)
Representative Baker (excused)
Representative Cates (excused)

Committee staff present:

Arden Ensley, Revisor
Pat Mah, Research
Shirley Lee, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Elaine Wells
Joe de la Torre, Secretary of State Office

Others attending: see attached list.

Chairman Jones opened the hearing for **HB 2879** and **HB 2880**.

Representative Wells appeared before the Committee. She stated **HB 2879** related to what happened in the election contest when absentee voters appeared to lose their right to have their votes counted because they had failed to sign the absentee ballot envelope. She urged the Committee to recommend **HB 2879** for favorable passage (see attachment 1).

Chairman Jones opened the floor for questions and there were none.

Representative Wells testified that **HB 2880** allows voters who have a name change to vote after giving an affidavit stating the facts relevant to the change in their name. She encouraged the Committee to pass the bill favorably (see attachment 2).

Joe de la Torre, Secretary of State Office, appeared before the Committee. He stated the Secretary of State Office was in support of **HB 2879** and **HB 2880**. He states **HB 2880** under current law is more restrictive to women than to men, which may make it unconstitutional. He stated he hope that the bill could be implemented as soon as possible (see attachment 3).

Chairman Jones opened the floor for questions and the bill was discussed.

Chairman Jones closed the hearing and informed the Committee that final action would be taken on **HB 2879** and **HB 2880**, and they would work on a campaign ethics bill.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ELAINE L. WELLS
REPRESENTATIVE, FIFTY-NINTH DISTRICT
OSAGE AND NORTH LYON COUNTIES
R.R. 1, BOX 166
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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: ELECTIONS
INSURANCE
PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS AND
BENEFITS

TESTIMONY ON HB2879

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify on HB2879.

This bill relates to what happened in the election contest when absentee voters appeared to lose their right to have their votes counted because they had failed to sign the Absentee Ballot envelope.

Out of ten or so voters who had not signed the envelopes five or so were at the court hearings to testify that those ballots were theirs (they had printed or typed a return address on the envelope).

This bill will help ensure that such voters will have their votes count by bringing to their attention that the decalaration must be completed and signed.

The other revision in this bill is on line 6 of page 2, which states that absentee ballots have to be received in the office of the county election office to be counted.

We had a situation where the ballot was placed in a drop box at the court house and was not discovered until the next day. This change will clarify where the ballot is to be received to be counted.

Again, thank you, and I urge the committee to recommend this bill for favorable passage.

House Elections
2-19-92
Attachment 1



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

ELAINE L. WELLS
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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: ELECTIONS
INSURANCE
PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS AND
BENEFITS

TESTIMONY ON HB2880

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify on HB2880.

A similiar bill as HB2880 passed out of this committee last year.

It simply allows voters who have a name change to vote after giving an affadavit stating the facts relevant to the change in their name.

In the election contest at least two voter's ballots were challenged because of a name change. One additional voter told me personally she was not even allowed to vote at the polls.

This bill will help ensure that there is no discrimination especially to women in voting when they have had a name change.

I encourage the committee to pass this bill favorably.

*House Elections
2-19-92
attachmet 2*

Bill Graves
Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF JOSE DE LA TORRE
HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
February 19, 1992
House Bill 2880

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 bill will allow persons who have changed their names to vote at any election by completing an affidavit.

Under current law, a person may only vote if that person had changed names in the last 30 days prior to the election. Current law is obviously more restrictive to women than men, which may make it unconstitutional.

I strongly urge your approval of this bill for favorable passage.
Thank you.

House Election
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Attachment 3