

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Carol Dawson, at 9:00 a.m. on March 15, 1995 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Kay O'Connor, Excused
 Rep. Dee Yoh, Excused

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
 Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
 Arden Ensley, Revisor of Statutes
 Donna Lutjohann, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Brad Bryant, Deputy Asst Secretary of State

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Dawson opened the hearing on SB 232 regarding elections and their administration and procedures.

Brad Bryant was recognized by the Chairman as a proponent of the bill. He testified that the bill was, essentially, a clean-up bill. He stated that it dealt with expanding some deadlines and it tightened up some deadlines. See Attachment 1.

The Chairman closed the public hearing on SB 232.

The Committee's attention was drawn to SB 74 regarding state employees with a substantial interest in a business they contract with. Rep. Chronister made a motion to recommend favorable passage of the bill and because it is of a non-controversial nature, be placed on the Consent Calendar. It was seconded by Rep. Benlon. The motion carried.

Chairman Dawson adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 1995, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: March 15, 1995

NAME	REPRESENTING
Brad Bryant	Sec. of State
Libby Eustace	Cullback
Charlie Smithson	KCBSC
Caleb Wilkins	KCBSC

Ron Thornburgh
Secretary of State



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STATE OF KANSAS

House Committee on Governmental Organization and Elections

Testimony on SB 232

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Elections and Legislative Matters

March 15, 1995

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of SB 232. We in the Secretary of State's office urge the committee to recommend this bill favorably for passage. We refer to it as an election administration clean-up bill. It sets some deadlines, tightens others, and improves several parts of the process of administering elections.

There are nine concepts featured in SB 232. They are listed below in chronological order (not the order in the bill) as they are encountered during an election cycle:

a. County election officers (CEOs) would be required to certify voter registration totals and party affiliation totals to the Secretary of State before each primary and general election *in even numbered years only*, instead of every year. This provision amends K.S.A. 25-2311 and 25-3302, and appears in Sections 5 and 9 of the bill.

b. The number of write-in votes a candidate must receive in the primary would be based on the most recent number of registered voters as certified to the Secretary of State, not the current numbers on file in the CEO's office. This provision amends K.S.A. 25-213 and appears in Section 2 of SB 232.

c. The bill clarifies that recognized political parties other than the Democratic and Republican parties would be required to nominate candidates to one or more statewide office, not each statewide office, to maintain party recognition status. This provision amends K.S.A. 25-302b and appears in Section 3.

d. CEOs would be required to send to each candidate a copy of a newspaper publication listing each candidate's name before the general election, instead of only

HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS

March 15, 1995 Attachment I

Corporations (913) 296-4564
FAX (913) 296-4570

Elections (913) 296-4561
Administration (913) 296-2236
FAX (913) 291-3051

UCC (913) 296-3650
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before the primary. This would include independent candidates, Libertarians, and judicial retention candidates. This provision amends K.S.A. 25-105 and appears in Section 1.

e. The bill establishes deadlines for party district conventions to convene and nominate persons to fill vacancies in offices and candidacies, and it applies also to vacancies in the state board of education. Current law does not contain a deadline for nominations in most cases. This provision amends K.S.A. 25-3902, 3902a, 3904 and 3904a; it appears in Sections 10, 11, 12 and 13.

f. In cases of recounts, CEOs would be required to notify each candidate involved in a recount that a recount had been requested, or to notify the county party chair. This provision amends K.S.A. 25-3107 and appears in Section 6.

g. CEOs would be required to send their certified abstracts of votes cast to the Secretary of State by the second Tuesday after the election instead of seventeen days after the election. This provision amends K.S.A. 25-3203 and appears in Section 7.

h. Candidates nominated in the primary would have seven, instead of three, days after the state board of canvassers meeting in August to withdraw from the race. This provision amends K.S.A. 25-306b and appears in Section 4.

i. The state board of canvassers would meet after each primary election on call by the Secretary of State instead of the third Tuesday. This makes the process the same for the primary as it is for the general. This provision amends K.S.A. 25-3205 and appears in Section 8.

Following is a section-by-section outline of the bill.

- Sec. 1 CEO sends publication to each candidate before general election
- Sec. 2 Candidates' write-in nominations based on registration totals certified to Secretary of State
- Sec. 3 Third parties must nominate candidate in only one or more statewide offices
- Sec. 4 Extends candidate withdrawal deadline after primary
- Sec. 5 CEO certifies voter registration totals only in even-numbered years
- Sec. 6 CEO notifies candidates of recount
- Sec. 7 CEO certifies abstract of vote to Secretary of State within two weeks
- Sec. 8 State board of canvassers meets after primary on call of Sec. of State
- Sec. 9 CEO certifies party affiliation totals only in even-numbered years
- Sec. 10 Deadline for party convention to nominate to fill vacancy in office
- Sec. 11 Deadline for party convention to nominate to fill vacancy in office of state board of education
- Sec. 12 Deadline for party convention to nominate to fill vacancy in candidacy

Sec. 13 Deadline for party convention to nominate to fill vacancy in candidacy
for state board of education

The Senate amended SB 232 in two ways:

1. In Section 1, the Senate changed the time for CEOs to mail notices to candidates from 15 days before the general election to 25 days before the election. This was done to make the bill more compatible with another bill before this committee, SB 91. That bill, dealing with absentee or advance voting, requires ballots to be prepared 20 days before the election.
2. In Sections 10 through 13, the Senate changed the deadline for party conventions to nominate persons to fill vacancies from 14 days to 21 days.

We suggest two other minor amendments:

1. In Section 11, page 11, line 32, add the word "day" back in.
2. Delete subsection (b) of Section 13 on pages 14 - 15.