

Approved: 2-21-95
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENT & GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS .

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sen. Janice Hardenburger at 1:30 p.m. on February 14, 1995 in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Brady, Excused
Senator Parkinson, Excused

Others attending: See attached list

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Arden Ensley, Revisor of Statutes
Stacey Soldan, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator David Kerr
Senator Doug Walker
Jim Shetlar-United We Stand Kansas
Harriet Lange-Kansas Association of Broadcasters
Senator Praeger
Brad Bryant-Secretary of State's Office

SB 121--Relating to elections; concerning corrupt political advertising

Senator Kerr appeared before the committee to testify on **SB 121**. He stated that negative advertising was a deterrent to people choosing to run for office. He stated allegations or personal attacks should not be broadcast without being signed by or the picture of the candidate on whose behalf it is being run. He would like the wording to be "causing to be published or broadcast" to put the responsibility on the candidate instead of the publisher or the broadcaster. There was a question concerning border cities and whether Kansas law would apply to cities concerning broadcasting in Kansas. Discussion followed and Sen. Kerr stated that the responsibility should still be on the candidate.

Jim Shetlar, United We Stand Kansas, (attachment 1) appeared before the committee to testify on **SB 121**. He stated that United We Stand Kansas supports this legislation and that campaigning should focus on the issues.

Harriet Lange, Kansas Association of Broadcasters, (attachment 2) appeared before the committee to testify on **SB 121**. She stated that censoring political advertisements would be in violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution and the Federal Communication Commission prohibits censorship of political advertisements. She questioned who would decide what is a "personal attack."

Hearings on **SB 121** were closed.

SB 154--Relating to elections; concerning campaign practices

Senator Walker appeared before the committee to testify on **SB 154**. (attachment 3) He briefly explained the reasoning behind introducing this bill. He stated that exposure and accountability for candidates who run slanderous and unethical campaigns would bring a return to honest discussions of issues.

Jim Shetlar, United We Stand Kansas, appeared before the committee to testify on **SB 154**. (attachment 1) He stated that they supported this bill and it would be a tragedy for this committee to not take any action whether it is this bill or another; that voters want accountability from their candidates.

Harriet Lange, Kansas Association of Broadcasters, appeared before the committee to testify on **SB 154**. (attachment 4) She stated that having to submit all media material to the Kansas Commission on Governmental

Standards and Conduct would clearly “abridge” or “reduce” political speech for candidates. She stated the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states in part “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.” She stated the bill was bad public policy.

The hearings on SB 154 were closed.

SB 196--Relating to elections; concerning primary elections

Senator Praeger appeared before the committee to testify on SB 196. She stated her intent in introducing this bill was to promote greater voter participation in primary elections. Discussion followed concerning the time frame being too limited between the primary and general election.

Brad Bryant, Secretary of State’s office, appeared before the committee to testify on SB 196. (attachment 5) He stated that moving the primary election date, deadline for the filing of candidates, and the state board of canvassers meeting was possible; however, he stated more study was needed and an interim study might be possible.

The hearings on SB 196 were closed.

Senator Hardenburger announced discussion of SB 74, SB 75, SB 92, SB 89 and possibly SB 137; and a hearing on SB 232 on February 15, 1995. She also announced a subcommittee chaired by Sen. Clark; and represented by Sen. Ranson and Sen. Wisdom would study SB 91.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 1995.