

Approved: 3/7/96
Date

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Janice Hardenburger at 12:40 p.m. on February 26, 1996 in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Martin, excused
Senator Wisdom, excused

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Bonnie Fritts, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Brad Bryant, Office of Secretary of State
Elizabeth Endsley, KCCA Elections Committee Chairman
Connie Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner
Janet Williams, Shawnee County Elections Office

Others attending: See attached list

SB 671 **concerning elections; relating to advance voting**

There was discussion on the amendments approved at the last meeting. Brad Bryant, representing the office of Secretary of State, submitted an additional amendment and was asked to explain that amendment. He stated that this eliminates the "on behalf of" applications for advance ballots and the voter would have to sign the application. It requires the Secretary of State to prescribe forms for application, and requires county election officers to provide them. It also expands the affidavit of assistance to include the application process. This amendment would clarify that the affidavit covers assisting in the application process as well as transmittal and marking.

Discussion followed concerning information contained on the application. The committee made alterations to the amendment to correct the definition of "advance voting ballot".

Elizabeth Endsley testified as a proponent stating come of the benefits of the bill; it increases the opportunity for electors to vote, it can reduce lines at polling places (Attachment 1).

Connie Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner also appeared in support of the bill. There was more discussion.

Senator Parkinson moved that the balloon and definition amendments be adopted. Senator Ranson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Clark made a motion to pass **SB 671** favorably as amended. Senator Parkinson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

SB 634 **an act concerning state governmental ethics; relating to reports filed by lobbyists; inspection of records**

Senator Hardenburger asked the committee to study the new language of the bill.

Janet Williams, Shawnee County Elections Office, explained the amendment.

Senator Parkinson moved to adopt the amendment to the bill. Senator Ranson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Parkinson moved to pass **SB 634** favorably as amended. Senator Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed.

SB 633

concerning state governmental ethics; relating to staff officers and employees; restrictions on compensation

Janet Williams testified briefly to clarify some of the language of the bill.

Senator Parkinson moved to report the favorably. Senator Ranson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was no further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

KANSAS COUNTY CLERK'S ASSOCIATION

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DATE: February 26, 1996

TO: Senate Elections Committee, Senator Hardenburger, Chairman

FROM: Elizabeth Ensley, KCCA Elections Committee Chairman

RE: **SB 671**

Thank you for your thorough consideration of advance voting in **SB 671**. Advance Voting was legislation that took three years to pass. Election officials from Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Labette, and other counties have testified for it.

Advance voting increases the opportunity for electors to vote and can actually increase voter turnout.

Advance voting can also reduce lines at polling places, where voters have waited as long as 4 hours.

The first three sections of **SB 671** are imperative if election officials are to produce results in a timely manner. Since there have been no major elections since advance voting went into effect, there are no clear experiences to foresee problems. However there are some comments and concerns from the KCCA Elections Committee regarding the proposed amendments:

Eliminating the On Behalf Of Requests produces a real concern for timely requests for ballots for anyone who has a family member who is out of the county. It also creates more postage or trips for those requesting ballots for family members. However, we cannot find anyone that may be denied a ballot because of this change. Family members would have to work earlier to get an application to the voter.

Limiting On Behalf Of Requests to Monday and Tuesday of the election is not necessary because the sick and disabled statutes have not been amended so those electors may still request a ballot until noon on election day.

Prescribing a mandatory form could be costly and time consuming. We would have to supply this form to each campaign or special interest group. It could also cause problems if another unauthorized form were distributed. Then counties would spend the three weeks before the election mailing the correct form to each requester.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.

KCCA ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: Libby Ensley - Shawnee Co., Patty Jaimes - Douglas Co., Sharon Cahoon - Chase Co., Donna Mietchen - Franklin Co., Linda McHenry - Franklin Co., Connie Schmidt - Johnson Co., Linda Bott - Rush Co., Karen Hartenbower - Lyon Co., Marilyn Chapman - Sedgwick Co., Sharon Dimitt - Stanton Co., Pat Rahija - Wyandotte Co.

LIBBY SB671.doc
SENATE ELECTIONS
2-26-96
ATTACHMENT 1