

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Parkinson at 9:05 a.m. on January 23, 1996, in Room 531-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Gerald Karr  
Commissioner Linda D. Peterson, Marion County  
Rob Hodges, Kansas Telecommunications Association  
Representative Tom Sloan  
Elmer Ronnebaum, Kansas Rural Water Association

Others attending: See attached list

**SB 409: Concerning emergency telephone service; relating to the emergency telephone tax and the use of the proceeds thereof.**

Staff explained that **SB 409** amends the statute to allow the proceeds from 911 fees to be used for the acquisition and installation of road signs in rural county areas to assist emergency service personnel.

Senator Gerald Karr, author of the bill, noted that this is an issue of concern for several counties. He explained that some counties need assistance in obtaining flexibility in developing road signs to assist emergency personnel as they respond to 911 emergency calls in rural county areas. Many times emergency personnel have difficulty locating the address at which assistance has been requested in rural areas due to the lack of road signs.

Commissioner Linda D. Peterson, Marion County, testified in support of **SB 409**. She stressed that rural addressing signs would greatly help emergency services. The adoption of the bill would cost the state nothing but rather would enable counties to expand the use of 911 fees presently collected on phone bills which would be available for this purpose. (Attachment 1)

Rob Hodges, President of the Kansas Telecommunications Association, testified in support of the bill with a "friendly" amendment which would specify that the money is to be used to promote only the installation of road signs that support the emergency telephone service. (Attachment 2)

Senator Feleciano moved that **SB 409** be amended on line 30 by inserting before the period "designed to aid the emergency telephone service." Senator Langworthy seconded, and the motion carried.

Senator Reynolds moved that **SB 409** be reported favorable for passage as amended. Senator Ramirez seconded, and the motion carried.

**HB 2403: Concerning water supply and distribution districts; relating to the powers thereof.**

Staff explained that the bill amends the public wholesale water supply district law to include any political subdivision of any adjacent state and any state agency of any adjacent state under the definition of public agency. The purpose is to provide public water utilities outside the State of Kansas to be members of the public wholesale water supply districts with the same status as public water entities in Kansas.

Representative Tom Sloan testified in support of **HB 2403**. Representative Sloan noted that the bill was

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, Room 531-N Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on January 23, 1996.

heard during the 1995 legislative session, but no action was taken by the Committee. He said it corrects an administrative problem involving public wholesale water supply districts in border counties. It would allow all participating entities in Kansas and adjacent states to have a voice in setting water rates and in governance of the districts. (Attachment 3)

Senator Ranson determined that HB 2403 would provide no specific benefits for the State of Kansas and questioned the necessity of enacting legislation for the benefit of other states.

Elmer Ronnebaum, Kansas Rural Water Association, testified in support of HB 2403. Mr. Ronnebaum felt it was important that public water systems located outside of Kansas be afforded representation on the governing bodies of public wholesale water supply districts organized in Kansas. (Attachment 4)

Senator Feleciano said, in his opinion, the State of Kansas is not obligated to allow other states a voice in Kansas water supply districts. Mr. Ronnebaum responded that communities on the Kansas side of the border want the adjacent state to have a voice in governance of the water supply district because it is a shared responsibility.

The Chairman suggested that a request be made that HB 2403 be referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. It was the consensus of the Committee to do so.

The Chairman informed the Committee that Senators Harrington and Corbin had requested that a bill be introduced regarding township boards with respect to compensation for road services. Senator Ramirez moved to introduce the bill. Senator Langworthy seconded, and the motion carried.

The minutes of January 18 were approved.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:52 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 1996.



January 23, 1996

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Local Government Committee,

I'm Linda Peterson Marion County Commissioner. I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you in support of Senate Bill 409 concerning use of 911 fees.

Senate Bill 409 would enable counties to use the 911 fees collected on phone bills to be used for the cost of signing rural roads. The past Attorney General had ruled that the present language does not allow counties to use the 911 fees for rural address signs.

Rural addressing is done as part of the enhanced 911 program. I feel that all the costs related to 911 should be paid from the 911 fee already collected.

The installation of rural addressing signs will greatly help our Emergency Medical Service, Fire, and Law Enforcement personnel respond to emergency calls.

Our county budget like the State budget is tight and therefore we don't have extra money available for this purpose. The adoption of this bill will not cost the State anything and it will keep the county from adding a mill or more to the property tax for rural address signs.

Linda D. Peterson  
Marion County Commissioner  
Rt. 2, Box 34  
Burdick, KS 66838  
913-983-4353

Senate Local Government  
1-23-96  
Attachment 1



# Legislative Testimony

Kansas Telecommunications Association 700 SW Jackson St., Suite 704, Topeka, KS 66603-3758 V/TTY 913-234-0307 FAX 913-234-2304

## Testimony before the Senate Committee on Local Government

SB 409

January 23, 1996

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Rob Hodges, President of the Kansas Telecommunications Association. Our membership is made up of telephone companies, long distance companies, and firms and individuals who provide service to and support for the telecommunications industry in Kansas.

I appear today in support of SB 409 and ask that the committee adopt a friendly amendment to the bill. The amendment would add at the end of line 30 before the period the following language: "designed to promote the emergency telephone service." <sup>aid</sup>

You will note that each of the other three items for which 911 tax money can be spent is specifically restricted to those expenditures that support the emergency telephone service. Our amendment would merely make sure that any road signs acquired or installed under this act would be designed to support the emergency telephone service efforts in that jurisdiction.

We spoke with the sponsor of the bill, Senator Karr, about our amendment and he indicated he would view it as a friendly amendment. We hope this committee will do the same and will adopt our amendment before taking any further action on the bill.

*Senate Local Government  
1-23-96  
Attachment 2*

TOM SLOAN  
REPRESENTATIVE, 45TH DISTRICT  
DOUGLAS COUNTY

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
ROOM 446-N  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504  
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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
MEMBER: AGRICULTURE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

## Testimony on HB 2403

### Regarding Public Wholesale Water District Governance

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

HB 2403 corrects an administrative problem involving Public Wholesale Water Supply Districts. Under other statutory authorization Public Wholesale Water Supply Districts may sell water to municipalities, rural water districts, and government entities outside the State of Kansas. However, only Kansas based wholesale customers can participate in the governance of the Wholesale Water Supply Districts.

Currently none of the six or seven Public Wholesale Water Supply Districts serve entities outside Kansas. However, as other conferees will testify, two new forming Districts might serve small towns along the Kansas borders with Missouri and Oklahoma.

It is important that all participating entities have a voice in setting water rates, entering into construction and other contracts, and generally representing the interests of their customers in the establishment of policies and procedures which direct the Public Wholesale Water District. HB 2403 provides the authority by which all entities served by a Public Wholesale Water District may participate in its governance.

I urge the Committee to recommend HB 2403 favorably for passage. HB 2403 passed the House 122 - 3.

*Senate Local Government  
1-23-96  
Attachment 3*



KANSAS  
RURAL  
WATER  
*association*

Quality water, quality life

P.O. Box 226 • Seneca, KS 66538 • 913/336-3760 • FAX 913/336-2751

COMMENTS ON  
HOUSE BILL No. 2403  
BEFORE THE SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
January 23, 1996

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on House Bill No. 2403. I am Elmer Ronnebaum. I am General Manager of the Kansas Rural Water Association. The Association provides technical assistance to public water and wastewater systems and a variety of training opportunities for operators, board and council members.

The Kansas Rural Water Association supports House Bill No. 2403. The Public Wholesale Water Supply District law is unique in that it allows for individual cities and rural water districts to join in developing a common "master" system to provide water to its member entities. We support the regionalization of public water systems in Kansas whenever such projects provide benefits that otherwise cannot be achieved when systems function independently. HB 2403 will provide that water utilities outside of the State of Kansas to have voting rights when they choose to be members of Public Wholesale Water Supply Districts.

The Kansas Rural Water Association is aware of two Public Wholesale Water Districts which will potentially provide water to entities outside of Kansas; these are Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 13 based in Linn County and another district in the very southeastern corner of Kansas which could possibly provide water to as many as five entities in Oklahoma. In either case, the Districts will be incorporated in Kansas as majority of the entities will be from Kansas.

Because of the development costs, it will be beneficial to the overall success of the Districts to have as many members as can be economically served. Typically, each entity that chooses to join the Public Wholesale District appoints one representative to the governing board of the Public Wholesale District and entitles each entity then to have one vote on the Public Wholesale District's board of directors. Issues which the board typically would be voting on include budgets, rates, policies & procedures, hiring of employees, etc. HB 2403 ensures that public water systems located outside of Kansas will be afforded representation on the governing bodies of Public Wholesale Water Supply Districts organized in Kansas.

The Kansas Rural Water Association encourages your favorable support for HB 2403.

Respectfully submitted,

Elmer Ronnebaum  
General Manager

Senate Local Government  
1-23-96  
Attachment 4