

Approved: 3-18-97  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Janice Hardenburger at 1:40 p.m. on March 12, 1997 in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department  
Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Bonnie Fritts, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See attached list

The minutes of March 5, 10 and 11, 1997, were distributed for committee review.

Chairperson Hardenburger opened the hearing on HB 2101.

**HB 2101**                      **Concerning certain state officers and employees; relating to the acceptance or solicitation of gifts, loans and other gratuities**

Staff gave an overview of the bill. This bill extends current statute to cover most classified and unclassified employees in the executive branch of state government.

Carol Williams, Kansas Commission on Governmental Standards and Conduct, did not testify on the bill but stood for questions. Committee members questioned the wording in 4(c), that states, "No person subject to the provisions of this section shall solicit or accept free or special discount meals ....". Carol Williams explained the exceptions and stated it applies to all classified employees and some unclassified employees whose salaries are subject to approval by the Governor.

Staff stated the wording in that section should be amended to be consistent with other sections of the bill. Committee members agreed.

The office of the Governor submitted written testimony on the bill. It stated the purpose of this bill is to firmly establish a climate in which state employees deal professionally and at arm's length with their customers. Past experience has shown that employees and appointees prefer these restrictions so they can concentrate on business rather than who's picking up the check. This bill deals only with executive branch employees (Attachment 1).

Senator Petty made a motion to pass the bill as amended. Senator Becker seconded the motion. There was discussion on the definitions in the amendment. The motion and the second to the motion were withdrawn.

Further discussion and possible action on the bill will take place at a later date.

Chairperson Hardenburger closed the hearing on the bill and asked for consideration of the minutes.

Senator Becker moved to approve the minutes. Senator Gooch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Action on HB 2020.

**HB 2020**                      **Concerning townships; relating to the governing bodies thereof**

Staff explained this bill was created to clear up an error that was a result of past legislation. An amendment to K.S.A. 80-207 was passed last year that allowed township boards, by adoption of a resolution, to fix their compensation. The amendment validates payments made to township officers prior to August 2, 1996.

Senator Gooch made a motion to pass the bill. Senator Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 1997.

SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 3/12/97

NAME	REPRESENTING
Judy Wolff	SRS
Jalena M. Quirk	KFB
Graig Buchanan	KFB
Walter One	KFB
Steve Eckhoff	<del>AB</del> KFB
Ron Buchanan	KFB
Cassandra Goering	KFB
Rebecca Small	KFB
Robert Parker	KFB
Shawn Buessing	KFB
Amber Boyle	KFB
Luzann Wassinger	KFB
Zelli Martin	KFB
Amy Weigle	KFB
Kristi Schneider	KFB
Crystal Goodnow	KFB
Andrea Stagle	Ness County F.B.
Heather Keller	KFB
Rubenna Enns	KFB - Moode County

SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
COMMITTEE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 3-12-97

NAME	REPRESENTING
Tiffany J. McPheter	K F B
Megan Neal	KFB (Meade Co.)
Kauka Amerin	KFB - Meade Co.
Will Rertz	KFB - Neosho Co.
Anne Spies	Peterson Public Affairs Group

# STATE OF KANSAS



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## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2101  
SENATE ELECTIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 12, 1997  
BRENT ANDERSON, COUNSEL TO THE GOVERNOR

### HB 2101 WOULD BAN GIFTS, MEALS AND PERKS TO STATE EMPLOYEES

One year ago, Governor Graves issued an executive order prohibiting the acceptance or solicitation of gifts, meals, travel and entertainment by certain executive branch employees except under a few, specifically defined circumstances. HB 2101 would codify that executive order into statute and extend it to cover not just Governor's appointees, but most classified and unclassified employees in the executive branch of state government.

The purpose of the executive order and this bill is to firmly establish a climate in which state employees deal professionally and at arm's length with their customers, the people of Kansas. In turn, when dealing fairly, honestly and equally with all Kansans, their cynicism about government and government employees diminishes. The result is more state employees and better government.

HB 2101 would eliminate gratuitous freebies, establish a code of conduct in which state employees know what is expected and required of them, and provide for discipline, including termination, of those who choose to violate the public trust. Our experience this past year with the Governor's executive order has been that employees and appointees *prefer* these restrictions because when everyone knows the rules, they can concentrate on their business instead of who's going to pick up the check.

This bill deals only with executive branch employees. It basically is a personnel policy the Governor believes is important enough to be state law. He greatly appreciates and thanks you for your strong support of HB 2101.

SENATE ELECTIONS &  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
3-12-97  
ATTACHMENT 1