

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION & ELECTIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kent Glasscock at 9:00 a.m. on February 4, 1998, in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Lisa Benlon , Excused

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department  
Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Fulva Seufert, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mr. Mike Armstrong, Water District #1, Johnson County

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Glasscock called attention to the following Fiscal Notes which were passed out to Committee members: HB 2660, 2665, 2696, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, and 2733.

The Chair opened the Public Hearing for HB 2727.

**HB 2727 - Cities; general improvement and assessment law**

Chairperson Glasscock welcomed Mr. Mike Armstrong, Water District #1, Johnson County, who spoke as a proponent for HB 2727. Mr. Armstrong said that HB 2727 is a clarification of the current general assessment law to finance water district systems owned and operated by suburban water districts. (Attachment 1.)

The Chair summarized by saying that it authorized cities to use the financing on the water district's behalf. He also said that the Attorney General has said that it would be better if the law was clarified.

Representative Powers questioned if there would be any problems between the rural water lines and the municipalities and if Johnson County was unique. Mr. Armstrong said he felt there would not be any problems and that Johnson County was indeed unique.

Representative Welshimer asked if the money would come from special assessments and if these assessments are from water districts now or would there be new assessments. The answer was that people are able to testify and individual land owners within the improvement district pay for the special assessments. Mr. Armstrong also said that it gives those land owners the opportunity to spread the cost over a period of time for the special assessment.

The Chair commented that no one outside the benefit district would be making payments on those obligations and that only those people benefitting would pay.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing on HB 2727.

The Chair asked for the Committee's pleasure in regard to HB 2727.

Representative Cox made a motion to pass HB 2727 out favorably, and Representative Huff seconded.

Representative Ray made a substitute motion to pass HB 2727 out favorably and that it be placed on the Consent Calendar, and Representative Dillon seconded. Motion passed.

The Chair asked for brief Subcommittee reports. Representative Horst reported that the Elections/Local Government Subcommittee had held hearings on the following: HCR 5020, HB 2346, HB 2733, HB 2730, and would be receiving information on HB 2222 on Friday and having a hearing on HB 2759 on

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION & ELECTIONS, Room 521-S Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on February 4, 1998.

Thursday.

Representative Campbell reported that the Campaign/Finance Subcommittee had a total of eleven bills to discuss, and he said that two are ready to be discussed by the full Committee on Monday. He said they have had hearings on five, but no action taken as yet. They will be hearing two more on Thursday and two next Tuesday. He also said that they all would be worked by the end of next week.

Representative Tomlinson reported that the Ethics Subcommittee has worked on the following bills: HB 2656, HB 2663, HB 2775, HB 2654, HB 2657, HB 2776 and a replacement for HB 2227 which was stricken from the calendar last year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 1998.

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION & ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1998

NAME	REPRESENTING
Larry D Rosenau	Water Dist. No. 1 To Co.
MIKE ARMSTRONG	WATER DISTRICT No 1.
Kelly Kuitala	City of Overland Park

**Testimony Presented on Behalf of  
WATER DISTRICT NO. 1 OF JOHNSON COUNTY  
Regarding House Bill No. 2727**

Presented at the  
House Committee On Governmental Organization & Elections  
On February 4, 1998

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County appears as a proponent of House Bill No. 2727, which would specifically authorize the use of the general improvement and assessment law to finance water distribution systems owned and operated by suburban water districts.

Water District No. 1 is a political subdivision organized as a regional water utility under K.S.A. 19-3501 et seq. to serve the suburban region in and around Johnson County. It currently serves over 320,000 consumers in this area.

Water District No. 1 sought this amendment to specifically authorize the use of improvement districts in the financing of construction of water distribution systems owned and operated by the Water District. Because the Water District serves as a surrogate water utility for cities located within its boundaries, the reference currently contained in K.S.A. 12-6a02(e), as a practical matter, refers to the Water District's facilities. In certain areas of its territory, municipalities are experiencing rapid growth that has required construction of several large water distribution mains to serve these growing areas. The Water District has previously cooperated with the cities of Shawnee and Olathe to finance water distribution mains with this statute. Although the Attorney General's office approved the projects constructed in the city of Shawnee and the city of Olathe, they have informed the Water District that they have some concerns about the application of the general improvement and assessment law to Water District facilities, and it has been suggested that it would be beneficial to have this statute clarified.

House Bill 2727 is simply intended to clarify this subsection to specifically authorize the use of this statute to improve waterworks systems located within the boundaries of a suburban water district that service and benefit the areas in and around the municipalities providing the financing for the improvements.

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County therefore urges your support of House Bill 2727 to clarify the existing statutory provisions of the general improvement and assessment law.

MJA/grl

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2.4.98  
Attachment 1