

Approved: 1-21-98
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Janice Hardenburger at 1:30 p.m. on January 13, 1998, in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Vidricksen

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Chairman Hardenburger introduced members of the Legislative Research and Revisor staff and requested introduction of bills. The Governor's office was represented by Dan Hermes who requested introduction of three proposals on campaign finance and ethic issues. The first related to expenditures and issue advocacy and requires reporting on all contribution and expenditures from persons that directly or indirectly influences the nomination or election of any individual to state or local office. These contributions and expenditure reports would encompass a time period of 60 days prior to the general election through the primary election and they would be required of any contribution or expense over \$2500.

Senator Steineger moved to introduce the proposal. Senator Praeger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The second requires political parties and political party action committees for mailings, advertising or other distinguishable services to list the expenditure for the individual candidates name, etc.

Senator Becker moved to introduce the bill as proposed. Senator Steineger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Third, last year's bill took care of all classified employees in Executive Branch of Government and unclassified employees having their salaries approved by the Governor. That leaves out individuals such as KPERS staff, who are unclassified, and their salaries do not have to be approved by the Governor. This proposal would extend it to all unclassified individuals in the Executive Branch of government except for certain individuals.

Senator Becker moved to introduce the proposal. Senator Steineger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Finally, the representative said that the Governor supported the provisions contained in **SB 410**. Briefing on the 1997 Special Committee on Governmental Organization that met for four days concerning provisions in **SB 18** were made by staff.

Dennis Hodgins, staff, discussed provisions in **SB 18** concerning competitive bidding for government services. Chairman Hardenburger commented that the counties and cities gave excellent testimony and three people representing cities testified and several County Commissioners on these provisions. She said that it was an education for the Committee to find out how bidding happens down at the local government level and the Committee made a wise decision to recommend further study of a different approach to acquiring professional services. The Special Committee thought that **SB 18** should remain in a Conference Committee Chaired by Senator Hardenburger.

Senator Petty questioned if the Special Committee discussed particular language in regard to contract being pursued and Senator Hardenburger advised they did not have time.

Chairman Hardenburger advised the original **SB 18** was amended into another ethics bill and it passed. Amendments that are currently in **SB 18** were discussed by the Special Committee but the original **SB 18** no longer exists.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Elections and Local Government Committee, January 13, 1998

Senator Becker had raised the question as to how information was protected and what safeguards exist for privacy. As a result, the issue was assigned to the Senate Election and Local Government Committee which passed a resolution to recommend further study, which was subsequently assigned to the interim Special Committee on Government Organization. Chairman Hardenburger said that the subject was so complex that the Special Committee could not have an indepth study in one day. Briefings from the agencies provided information on what they were doing as far as safeguards with new technology. The result of the Special Committee recommendations was a pre-filed **SB 393**. Chairman Hardenburger advised it would give the Joint Committee of Computers and Telecommunications more time to further delve into the subject. Also it will place the further need of study in a Committee that deals with this area of technology.

Staff briefed the Committee on local government cleanup bills. Two bills have been assigned to the Senate Committee and fourteen bills to the House Committee. The staff stated that the League of Municipalities and the Kansas Association of Counties commissioned a study of state mandates in the early 90's which identified 900 mandates. In this process, 500 statutes were identified as obsolete. Two years ago, a House Local Government Committee assigned a subcommittee to draft recommendations to remove the obsolete statutes. Twenty bills were introduced too late in the session and thus were referred to interim study. The Special Committee heard testimony from Professor Ed Flenjie who had conducted the original study. Representatives from several municipalities testified in the interim and endorsed the idea to "clean-up" the statutes. As a result, two of the sixteen bills were assigned to the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government. **SB 397** and **SB 398** are scheduled for January 16, 1998 in this Committee. Chairman Hardenburger requested advice from the staff on how to treat **SB 398** which is identical to provisions in one of the House bills which is on the Consent Calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 1998.

