

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Senator Janice Hardenburger at 1:30 p.m. on February 16, 2000, in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Huelskamp

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Robert Tyson
Bruce Dimmitt, Independent

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Hardenburger opened the hearing on **SCR 1637 Proposition to amend section 2 of article 2 of the Constitution of the state of Kansas, relating to Senators and Representatives.**

Senator Robert Tyson, sponsor of **SCR 1637**, presented testimony to the Committee stating that the purpose of the resolution is to allow the voters to vote on a Constitutional Amendment which would limit the term of every state Senator and Representative elected after year 2001. (Attachment #1)

The Committee discussed the amount of turnover by elected representative through the elective process. Members stated that the voters decide who will represent them and term limits are not needed. They also discussed the value of experience gained by longevity in office.

Bruce Dimmitt, Independent, provided comments to the Committee.

Chairman Hardenburger closed the hearing on **SCR 1637**.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2000.

ELECTIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST

DATE: FEBRUARY 16, 2000

NAME	REPRESENTING
Brad Bryant	Sec. of state
Bruce Dimmitt	Independent
Robert Tyson	Scout
Ludena Cole	Sen. Tyson Office
Dorville Cole	Sen. Tyson

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

KANSAS SENATE

COUNTIES
ANDERSON, BOURBON,
FRANKLIN, LINN & MIAMI

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: AGRICULTURE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISM
JOINT COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS,
INVESTMENTS & BENEFITS

ROBERT TYSON
SENATOR, TWELFTH DISTRICT
Home Address: ROUTE 1, BOX 229
PARKER, KANSAS 66072
(913) 898-6035
Office: STATE CAPITOL BUILDING—136-N
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
(785) 296-7380
1-800-432-3924

February 16, 2000
TESTIMONY
SCR 1637

before the SENATE ELECTIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of SCR 1637. The purpose of this resolution is to allow the voters of this state to vote on a constitutional amendment which will limit the term of every state senator and representative elected after year 2001. After that date a citizen could serve a total of 12 years in the House and 12 years in the Senate. This would be a lifetime limitation. I respect the opinions of those who oppose this legislation, as there are several good arguments on their side. My personal opinion and the opinion of many of my constituents is that term limits are beneficial. In fact, nation wide the polls have shown that 70% of the people support term limits and term limits have been enacted in 20 states.

Solid Kansas citizens see a need for good government and run for office. They work hard and are elected and come to Topeka with good ideas and ideals. In trying to turn these policies into law, they find the going tough. They find that to get along they go along and after a period of time they find they have become part of the problem that they came up here to fix in the first place.

The question is, should we have full-time career legislators or do we want legislators who are in touch with the problems and solutions of our free enterprise system. Career legislators often seem to be more closely aligned with bureaucrats and lobbyists rather than with taxpayer constituents at home.

For every dollar a legislator tries to cut or redirect there's a group out there that will complain about losing its funding. They then hire lobbyists to encourage the legislature to restore the funding. If that doesn't work they'll come up with campaign funding for those legislators that support their cause. The easy way for a career politician to avoid this process is to keep voting the money each special group wants. The National Taxpayers Union found that the longer politicians stay in office the more they spend. Term limits limiting legislators to 12 years will free them to work for those things that they believe are right, even those issues that are not popular in Topeka. Without term limits, winning the next election, more often than not, becomes our highest priority which often results in legislators sliding down that slippery slope of special interest politics.

I feel very strongly that we need term limits.

Senate Elections & Local Government
Date: 2-16-00
Attachment # 1