

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 22, 2000, in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Petty

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: Ramon Murguia, Attorney/Lobbyist for Kansas City Area
Transportation Authority
Murray Nolte, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners
KCATA

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Hardenburger opened the hearing on **SB 642 concerning the Kansas City area transportation authority and repealing the existing section**. She introduced Mr. Ramon Murguia, Attorney/Lobbyist for Kansas City Area Transportation Authority. (KCATA)

Ramon Murguia, presented testimony in favor of **SB 642**. However, he did advise the Committee of a correction to the current language of the bill. The provision indicates a commissioner appointed to serve an unexpired term of more than 2 ½ years may be appointed only to one additional consecutive four-year term. He advised this should read more than 2 years, not 2 ½ years. The purpose of this is that a commissioner appointed to complete a term who will serve more than half of an unexpired term would serve only one additional complete term of four years. (Attachment #1)

Murray Nolte, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, KCATA, asked that **SB 642** be approved in order to set a limit of two terms for the KCATA Commissioners. (Attachment #2)

Seeing there was no opposition to the bill, Chairman Hardenburger closed the hearing on **SB 642**.

Senator Becker moved that on Line 19 of the bill be deleted by ½ , seconded by Senator Steineger. Motion carried.

Senator Becker moved that **SB 642** be moved out favorably as amended, seconded by Senator Steineger. Motion carried.

Senator Becker moved that the minutes of February 14, 15, 16 and 17, be approved as written, seconded by Senator Steineger. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2000.

RAMON MURGUIA

**Testimony before the Kansas Senate
Committee on Elections and Local Government
February 22, 2000**

Madam Chair and distinguished Senators.

My name is Ramon Murguia. I am a resident of Kansas City, Kansas and an attorney with a solo practice in Kansas City, Missouri. It is a pleasure for me to address this committee today regarding Senate Bill No. 642.

I provide legal counsel to the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority and I was asked by the KCATA to provide assistance with Senate Bill No. 642.

I will keep my remarks very short. I will comment on a correction to the current language of the bill and introduce the Chairman of the KCATA.

First, I direct your attention to the text of Senate Bill No. 642. The KCATA Board of Commissioners authorized me to prepare the original revisions to the pertinent statute, KSA 12-2531. I point out what appears to be a typographical error in line 20 of the proposed bill. This provision indicates a commissioner appointed to serve an unexpired term of more than **2 ½ years** may be appointed only to one additional consecutive four-year term. That should read more than **2 years**, not 2 ½ years. The idea being that a commissioner appointed to complete a term who will serve more than **half** of an unexpired term would serve only one additional complete term of four years. We would sincerely appreciate the correction of that typo.

It is an honor for me to now introduce to you the Chairman of the KCATA Board of Commissioners, Mr. Murray Nolte from Leawood, Johnson County, Kansas.

Thank you.

Ramón Murguía
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Senate Elections & Local Government
Date: 2-22-00
Attachment # 1

TESTIMONY FOR THE KANSAS SENATE
Committee on Elections and Local Government
Tuesday, February 22, 2000

Madam Chair and Senators, thank you for allowing us to speak before you today. My name is Murray Nolte. I am serving my second term on the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority Board of Commissioners. I am honored to have been elected as Chairman of that Board this year. The KCATA is making a concerted drive to improve transportation opportunities to the citizens in its seven county jurisdiction, to expand cooperative efforts between the transportation entities within the area, to increase public awareness of the advantages of public transportation and to improve the structure of the organization itself to help meet those goals.

In our first step toward revamping the governance of the KCATA, we are answering concerns that lengthy tenures on the Board might mitigate against innovations and fresh ideas for service to our patrons. Having come on the Board just five years ago and having the honor of working with several Commissioners with many years of service, I believe they deserve a great deal of credit for persevering through extremely difficult times of low or no financing and other major problems. We all agree, however, that it is better to involve more people in the organization and thus attempt to avoid even a hint of closed minds or entrenchment. While it may be inappropriate to impose term limits on elective offices where voters already have that prerogative, appointive offices are a different matter and we have limits on a number of boards in Johnson County with no adverse effects.

We had intended to ask for legislation extending the length of terms to five years to match the commissioners on the Missouri side and to provide a limit of two terms. We found, however, that the Kansas Constitution precludes a term longer than four years and so we have dropped that part of the request. We are asking that you adopt an amendment to the original bill, setting a limit of two terms for those KCATA Commissioners from Kansas with parameters as stated. Missouri legislation will ask for the same limits along with several other conditions to bring their appointment procedures more in line with those in Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to bring this before you and I will be glad to try to answer any questions you might have.

Murray L. Nolte,
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Senate Elections & Local Government
Date: 2-22-00
Attachment # 2