

Approved: February 21, 2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 11:00 a.m. on February 16, 2000 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Vratil, Excused
Senator Vidricksen, Excused

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Cal Nicodemus, Ks. Chapter of National Contractors Association
Jon Miles, Kansas Electric Cooperatives
Steve Kearney, Propane Marketers Assn. Of Kansas

Others attending: See attached sheet

Chairman Oleen recognized Senator Becker who requested the introduction of a bill that deals with KPERS and overpayment to a widow in his district. Senator Jones moved for introduction of the bill. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Oleen recognized Steve Kearney, representing Propane Marketers Association of Kansas, for an introduction of a bill changing the annual inspection of "vapor meters" to comply with the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook #44 by the Secretary of Agriculture. Senator Becker moved for the introduction of the bill. Senator Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Becker stated that he wanted to introduce a bill regarding the World War II Memorial income tax check off. Senator Becker moved to introduce the bill. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Oleen stated that she had been contacted by the Riley County Law Board for the introduction of a bill concerning the Riley county law enforcement agency. Senator Biggs moved for the introduction of the bill. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Oleen opened the hearings on:

SB 479—concerning electricians, relating to licensure thereof

Chairman Oleen recognized Cal Nicodemus, Executive Director, National Electrical Contractors Association, Kansas Chapter, a proponent of **SB 479**. Mr. Nicodemus noted that The National Electrical Contractors Association represents 23 contracting firms in the state of Kansas and 800 electricians. (Attachment 1) Mr. Nicodemus stated that the current standard examination for determining the competency of journeyman electricians is the Block and Associates Examination. **SB 479** adds an equally important educational component by requiring four years on-the-job training working with a licensed electrician.

Members of the committee ask if there were some problems in the state that caused this bill to be needed and what would be the impact on local governments and cities. Senator Bleeker asked which states now require the four year on-the-job training. Mr. Nicodemus stated that he didn't have answers to these questions at this time. Chairman Oleen asked that Mr. Nicodemus show evidence to the committee that the state does have a problem, evidence that there are electrical malfunctions, and that there are public safety issues that need addressed that would meet the general public's desire to raise the bench line.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, Room 245-N Statehouse, at 11:00 A.M. on February 16, 2000.

Chairman Oleen recognized Jon Miles, Vice President, Governmental and Technical Services Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (Attachment 2). Mr. Miles stated that he was appearing in a neutral position on **SB 479**. Mr. Miles stated that Rural electric cooperatives serve electric customers in 102 of the 105 Kansas Counties. Mr. Miles stated that the bill is vague in several areas that might affect the extent of service cooperatives provide to it's members-consumers. He stated that bill raises questions regarding where the authority of a licensed electrician begins and ends in relationship to the secondary side of an electric service to a home or building; how would someone receive on-the-job training in a county where there is no journeyman electrician, and if the certification granted by the local county and city government would recognize certification on a statewide basis.

Senator Becker presented the committee with correspondence from Johnson County Building Officials Association in opposition of **SB 479**. (Attachment 3).

Chairman Oleen closed the hearing on **SB 479**.

Chairman Oleen ask the committee to look at **Sub SCR 1634** which has been amended to incorporate changes recommended at the hearing. She stated that the exact number of Kansas serving in the Korean War is still being gathered. Senator Harrington moved to report Sub SCR 1634 as amended favorably to the full senate. Senators, Biggs, Becker and Gooch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Senator Oleen introduced Jason Butler, Matt Hoover and Jackie Giullitto eight graders from Junction City who were serving as pages for her today. Jason is the grandson of Representative Geringer.

Chairman Oleen stated that work had been completed by all parties on **SB 304** and that a substitute bill is before the committee for consideration. Theresa Kiernan reviewed the amended bill for the committee. After discussion by the committee, Senator Becker moved to strike the sentence that the waiver shall be deemed denied if the secretary fails to render a decision within the 60 day period. Senator Biggs seconded; the motion passed. The procedure will be handled by rules and regulations.

Senator Jones moved to change Section 4, paragraph 5 (b) to include wording that the list not be inclusive. Senator Harrington seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Senator Biggs moved to recommend favorably Sub SB 304 as amended to the full senate. Senator Gooch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 noon. The next meeting will be February 17, 2000 at 11:00 a.m.

**SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST**

DATE: FEB 16, 2000

NAME	REPRESENTING
Kelley Kuetala	City of Overland Park
Danelle Schwartz	Div. of Personnel Services
Becca Vaughn	KDRACH / TILRC
Steve Richardson	KDRACH / TILRC
Norma Phillips	KDOCH
Randy S. Parker	KIDUC+H
Martha Jean Smith	KIMHA
Judy Aron	Amer Inst of Architects
Janet Stubbs	KBIA
Co. Fund	KDHE
Don Melis	KEC
Joe Long	UCU
BRUCE GRAHAM	KEPCO
Lester Murphy	KEC
Bill Kranger	self
Anthony A. Fadda	ADA - Admin.
Robin Tapp	KDRACH, LINK
Michelle Campbell	KDRACH, RCTL
Roger Frazee	RGC

Bernie Lusk
 Charles Yunka
 Doug Smith
 Col Nicodemus

Ks American Legion
 Ks American Legion
 Ks. Chapter National Electrical Contractors Assn.
 Ks. Chapter National Electrical Contractors Assn.

**National Electrical Contractors Association
Kansas Chapter**

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 479
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

February 16, 2000

Dear Madam Chairman and Members of the Federal and State Affairs
Committee:

Senate Bill 479 proposes to increase the level of experience and expertise of individuals acquiring the license of a Journeyman Electrician in the State of Kansas. The current standard examination for determining the competency of Journeyman Electricians is the Block and Associates Examination. The Block and Associates Examination is a very good indicator of the level of code knowledge and electrical theory one possesses. This is critical knowledge for a licensed journeyman electrician to have.

Senate Bill 479, however, adds an equally important educational component to the journeyman electrician licensing requirement. The ability to perform an electrical installation in a safe and workmanlike manner is an acquired skill. Those of you, who like me, have struggled on Christmas Eve, to assemble a swing set or toy car whose directions seemed simple enough have a glimpse of what I am talking about. Electricity is silent, moves at the speed of light and is very deadly. Safety demands that a licensed electrician develop the manual dexterity, tool performance, and knowledge of equipment tolerances necessary to physically perform the hundreds of types of electrical installations required of today's electricians. Four years on-the-job training working with a licensed electrician will satisfy those needs.

It is important to note that the licensing requirements are necessary for only a small portion of workmen calling themselves electricians. Some jurisdictions require that 50% of the workmen performing electrical work are licensed. Other jurisdictions require only one electrician per job to carry a license and there are jurisdictions in the State where there is no licensing of electricians at all. This fact, that only a small portion of the electricians in the state are required to possess a license, makes it all the more important those individuals who are licensed have all the skills necessary to do work; both theoretical and practical. The safety of our families while at home, at school, in hospitals and at work depends on it.

Sincerely,



Cal Nicodemus
Executive Director

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm
Date: 2-16-00
Attachment: # 1

Testimony of Jon K. Miles

Vice President, Governmental and Technical Services
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Submitted to the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

Madam Chairman and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide our thoughts with you on SB 479.

My name is Jon Miles. I have served as the legislative lobbyist for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. for just over 4 years. I have been involved in the rural electrification program since 1973.

Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. is the statewide association for 29 rural electric (distribution) cooperatives across the state of Kansas and two generation and transmission cooperatives, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation and Kansas Electric Power Cooperatives, Inc.

Rural electric cooperatives serve electric customers in 102 of the 105 Kansas counties. KEC provides a number of services to its member systems that they could not otherwise economically afford on their own.

We are appearing today in a neutral position on this bill. We do not oppose the licensing of electricians. The fact that qualified personnel have obtained a license provides both the customer and the company at least some level of confidence that the job will be done in a skilled, safe and professional manner. However, the bill is vague in several areas that might affect the extent of service cooperatives provide to it's member-consumers and the bill seems to raises several questions. For example, where does the authority of a licensed electrician begin and end in relationship to the secondary side of an electric service to a home or building? Would rural electric cooperative journeyman

lineman be precluded from providing restoration service on wires down between the meter and the house/building as we have done in the past for the customer?

It is important to note that often times following a severe storm, rural electric cooperative employees assist members in putting wire back up when electricians are not available to do the work.

Under the proposed bill, is the apprentice electrician required to take and successfully pass the standard examination from Block and Associates and work under a journeyman electrician for four years?

What if there is no journeyman electrician in every county in Kansas, would we be required to send someone to the next county to receive the four years on-the-job-training before certification?

My last comment addresses the fact that typically, one cooperative provides electric service in several counties. We assume that the certification granted by the local county and city government would recognize certification on a statewide basis. In addition, we have a couple of systems that cross state lines as well.

We would hope that this legislation would not preclude cooperatives from continuing to provide wiring service to customers served by rural electric cooperatives.

Madam Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the committee about our concerns on this bill. As you can see, we are somewhat unclear as to its intent and exactly what it is trying to accomplish or resolve.

I would be happy to stand for questions.

Sen Worley

Subj: **SB # 479, Session of 2000**
Date: 02/15/2000 3:33:34 PM Central Standard Time
From: rworley@ci.lenexa.ks.us (Ron Worley)
To: Kelkult@aol.com, dwatkins@ci.lenexa.ks.us (David Watkins)

Codes enforced Director in Lenexa

Kelly,
In reference to Senate Bill #479 the Johnson County Building Officials Association has asked me to let you know we are opposed to this bill as written. President Jerry Mallory, Building Official of Johnson Co. and I are unable to attend the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee hearing on Wed. morning Feb. 16, 2000. If possible could you let the Committee know of our opposition. This bill would put an additional record keeping requirement on cities and counties which license electricians. Such records would be difficult to obtain and verify for some of the applicants. The current law has been in place since about 1986 and has been working well.

KSA 12-1525 deals only with electricians however, 12-1509 and 12-1541 do exactly the same thing with regard to plumbers and heating, cooling and air conditioning contractors. It would seem that this bill should, if passed, be amended to treat all three trades in a like manor as they are currently treated.

----- Headers -----

Return-Path: <rworley@ci.lenexa.ks.us>
Received: from rly-za02.mx.aol.com (rly-za02.mail.aol.com [172.31.36.98]) by air-za02.mail.aol.com (v67_b1.24) with ESMTP; Tue, 15 Feb 2000 16:33:34 -0500
Received: from ch_gw1.ci.lenexa.ks.us (rmi-net-206-65-99-252.ci.lenexa.ks.us [206.65.101.252]) by rly-za02.mx.aol.com (v67_b1.24) with ESMTP; Tue, 15 Feb 2000 16:33:23 -0500
Received: from GWDOM1-Message_Server by ch_gw1.ci.lenexa.ks.us with Novell_GroupWise; Tue, 15 Feb 2000 15:33:25 -0600
Message-Id: <s8a971c5.050@ch_gw1.ci.lenexa.ks.us>
X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise Internet Agent 5.5.2.1
Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2000 15:32:56 -0600
From: "Ron Worley" <rworley@ci.lenexa.ks.us>
To: <Kelkult@aol.com>, "David Watkins" <dwatkins@ci.lenexa.ks.us>
Subject: SB # 479, Session of 2000
Mime-Version: 1.0
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