

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1:30 p.m. on March 21, 2002 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Mike Heim, Legislative Research
Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Bethell

Others attending: See attached list.

Hearing on HB 2787 - recreation systems; taxing district if school districts consolidate

Representative Bethell appeared before the Committee in support of **HB 2787** (Attachment 1).

Laura Kelly, Executive Director, Kansas Recreation and Parks Association, spoke in support of the amendment. She stated it would protect the current parks and recreation, and give citizens the option to join. It would also allow time for the recreation commission and school districts to draft legislation.

There being no others to appear as proponents or opponents, the public hearing on **HB 2787** was closed.

Action on HB 2337 and HB 2787

Senator Clark moved and Senator Schmidt seconded the motion to pass **HB 2337** favorably. The motion carried. Senator Brownlee, Senator Jackson, and Senator O'Connor were recorded as a no vote on **HB 2337**.

Senator Clark moved to pass **HB 2787**. Senator Huelskamp seconded the motion. Senators' Schmidt, Brownlee and Jackson requested to use this bill as a vehicle for amendments. Senator Brownlee offered a substitute motion to table **HB 2787** to a date certain of Tuesday, March 26, 2002, but no future meetings were scheduled. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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Testimony on House Bill 2787

Chairman Allen and members of the Senate Local Government Committee, thank you for allowing me to come before you today. I am Bob Bethell, Representative of District 113 of Kansas.

I would ask for your favorable consideration of HB 2787. This bill has been introduced because of a request of one of the school districts in the 113th Representative District.

This may come as a shock to you but two, actually four, districts from my area have been in discussions about, dare I say, consolidation. As the discussion progressed the goal of accomplishing something this year was set. However in discussion with the State Department of Education it was learned that the recreation commission of the lead school district would have a problem with funding after the consolidation. This problem came into existence because the funding of the recreation commission was linked to the school district. The Superintendent was told that the recreation commission would not follow the new district and therefore would be unfunded.

Not wanting to loose the recreation commission that the district currently cooperated with, I was asked to see what could be done. After consultation it was determined to introduce HB 2787; which allows for a snapshot of the district boundary the moment before the consolidation and then allows funding based on those boundaries. HB 2787 also allows the remaining area of the new district to do one of three things; 1) they can do nothing, 2) they can by vote of the qualified voters become a part of the existing recreation commission.

Thank you again, I ask for your support of HB 2787 and I will stand for questions.

Senate Elec & Loc Gov
 03-21-02
 Attachment 1