

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vickrey at 3:30 p.m. on March 11, 2003 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Everett Johnson

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department Maureen Stinson, Committee Secretary
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rep. Rick Rehorn
Sen. Tim Huelskamp

Others attending: See attached list

The Chairman opened the hearing on:

SB 53: counties; statement of expenditures; publication of; availability

Rep. Rehorn testified in support of the bill (Attachment 1). He stated that the bill amends a law requiring the board of county commissioners to publish quarterly financial statements and a special provision dealing with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City. He explained that the bill adds to the list of locations where a detailed list of expenditures must be made available if a summary is published to include each branch public library, the community college library, and the Bonner Springs library.

There were no opponents to **SB 53**.

The Chairman closed the hearing.

The Chairman opened the hearing on:

SB 109: counties; county assumption of certain cemetery lands

Sen. Huelskamp appeared as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 2). He stated that the bill is permissive and allows the county to take control of a cemetery that has been abandoned. He explained that under current law, the cemetery would have to be abandoned for five years before the county could assume the operation. Senator Huelskamp stated that this issue is a growing problem as cemetery boards dissolve and disappear. He summarized that this bill puts the power in the hands of the township boards and counties and does not limit their abilities, it simply provides options.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **SB 109**.

SB 53: counties; statement of expenditures; publication of; availability

Rep. Peterson made a motion for the passage of SB 53 and asked that it be placed on the Consent Calendar. Rep. Toelkes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rep. Gilbert made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 13, 2003 and February 25, 2003. The motion was seconded by Rep. Peterson. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2003.

HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DATE 3-11-2003

NAME	REPRESENTING
<i>No one signed list today.</i>	

STATE OF KANSAS

RICK REHORN
REPRESENTATIVE, 32ND DISTRICT
WYANDOTTE COUNTY
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 278-W
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1504
(785) 296-7680



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS
MEMBER: BUSINESS, COMMERCE & LABOR
JUDICIARY

**Testimony Presented
To
House Committee on Elections and Local Government
Re: SB#53
By
Representative Rick Rehorn
March 11, 2003**

K.S.A. 19-228 (c) currently requires that a detailed list of expenditures be available at the office of the county clerk and at the main branch of the Kansas City Kansas public library. This is a burden on many taxpayers of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City. These two buildings are less than a city block apart and during business hours parking is almost non-existent. Both buildings are in the far eastern part of the county.

In order to provide this information in a more convenient manner this section should be amended to include all branches of the Kansas City Kansas library, the Kansas City Kansas Community College library and the Bonner Springs library. This will provide the information at convenient locations for all residents and taxpayers throughout the county at little cost to the local government.

Thank you.

House Local Government
Date: 3-11-2003
Attachment # 1

STATE OF KANSAS

Tim Huelskamp
Senator, 38th District
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TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

Committee Assignments

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CHAIRMAN
AGRICULTURE, VICE CHAIRMAN
ELECTIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES
REAPPORTIONMENT
WAYS & MEANS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Huelskamp', written over a horizontal line.

Dear Senator Huelskamp:

On behalf of Seward County, I want to express my appreciation for your interest in our cemetery issues. Senate Bill 109 addresses these concerns in large measure. The township boards in many areas of Seward County simply do not operate. Although the donation process might be accomplished through a more dramatic, more time consumer manner under the current law, the elimination of the county size specific requirements in 19-3101 and 19-3102, by reference, make this a much cleaner process. The township board can simply donate the cemetery to the county. The county can choose to accept the donation or not.

In counties, like Seward, that operate cemeteries, the decision to accept the donation is fairly easy. The County is already geared up for cemetery maintenance work. Whereas, a township may not have the means or equipment to undertake the task on a 1 to 5 acre rural cemetery. If the township is required to maintain the cemetery, the purchase of equipment may be unnecessary and costly based on the size of the job. For a graphic illustration of the maintenance woes of a township cemetery, the Blue Bell cemetery, approximately 16 miles east of Liberal, is a good example of poor maintenance. The grass is three feet tall and the fence is in disrepair. In striking contract, Restlawn Cemetery, operated by Seward County, is an award winning, manicured cemetery.

It is a tribute to our ancestors to treat them with respect. The mechanism of township maintenance of cemeteries is not up to this task. As the relatives of our pioneers move from the area or die themselves, the interest in maintaining these areas slips from notice. This bill puts the power in the hands of the township boards and counties. It does not limit either organization's abilities, it simply provides options.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for you and your colleague in their work on this bill.

Sincerely,

C. Edward Young

House Local Government
Date: 3-11-2003
Attachment # 2