

House Bill 2587 - February 5, 2024 – North Topeka Drainage District

Good morning chairperson and members of the committee. My name is Merrill Befort. I am the attorney who represent the board of directors for the North Topeka Drainage District. The board of directors consist of three members. Ron Meier, Dave Jackson and Kenny Guilfoyle. Kenny Guilfoyle is here in attendance.

North Topeka Drainage District is responsible for the levee system for Soldier Creek and the maintenance of the levee for the North Bank of the Kansas river for the city of Topeka.

Presently K.S.A. 24-416(b) (which is the statute that provides for board meetings) provides that all meetings shall be open to the public and no meeting shall be held by the board or any of the members thereof to which the public is denied admission and the board shall not at any time go into executive session.

HB 2587 - would amend K.S.A. 24-416(b) to allow a Drainage District board of directors the authority to meet in executive session in accordance with the Kansas Open Meeting Law, specifically K.S.A. 75-4319. (Closed or Executive meetings)

At this time, the North Topeka Drainage District has no reason to either oppose or support HB 2587.

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