

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 19, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Wendy Wilson, Executive Director, Rosedale Development Association  
Representative Rick Rehorn  
Pat Rahija, Wyandotte County Election Commissioner

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairperson Allen started the meeting, announcing the opening of the hearing on **HB 2122**.

**Hearing on HB 2122 - abandoned property; rehabilitation thereof**

Written testimony supporting **HB 2122**, from Michael Snodgrass of Catholic Housing Wyandotte County Inc. (Attachment 1) and Kelly Wiloughby of Kaw Valley Habitat for Humanity (Attachment 2) was distributed to the committee members. Wendy Wilson, Executive Director of Rosedale Development Association, Inc. testified in favor of **HB 2122** (Attachment 3), focusing on the community and neighborhood benefits this would allow. Representative Rehorn also testified in support of **HB 2122** (Attachment 4), pointing out that he continues to support the bill even with 3 year homeowner occupancy stipulation. Neutral written testimony from Senator David Haley was distributed to the committee, regarding **HB 2122** (Attachment 5). Chairperson Allen asked for questions of the conferees. Members questioned the exact process utilized in determining abandoned property and the staff assisted in clarifying the effects of removing the applicability of K.S.A. 12-1753 to these types of property situations. Based on concerns raised and agreed to by proponents present, Chairperson Allen requested Representative Rehorn meet with revisor staff and other interested parties to develop a balloon for **HB 2122** for possible action at the next meeting. Representative Rehorn agreed. Chairperson Allen asked for anyone else wishing to testify for or against the bill; after no response the hearing was closed.

**Hearing on HB 2214 - Elections; establishing a procedure for handling sealed bags of ballots after the original canvass.**

Chairperson Allen announced the opening of the hearing by acknowledging Patricia Rahija, Wyandotte County Election Commissioner. Patricia Rahija testified in support of **HB 2214** (Attachment 6) explaining the need for uniform legislation addressing the tabulation of write-in ballots throughout Kansas. Chairperson Allen recognized members for questions. Chairperson Allen asked for anyone else

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT at on March 19, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

interested in testifying for or against **HB 2214**, there was no reply and the hearing was closed.

**Action on HB 2214 - Elections; establishing a procedure for handling sealed bags of ballots after the original canvass.** Chairperson Allen announced the working of **HB 2214**. Senator Clark moved to pass HB 2214 favorably and Senator O'Connor seconded the motion and it was favorably carried.

**Action on SCR 1607 - Constitutional revision establishing a commission to propose legislative state board of education and congressional districts.** Chairperson Allen directed action to **SCR 1607** Senator Clark requested the information previously requested, regarding the current members of the Supreme Court Nominating Committee, be distributed to members (Attachment 7). Staff distributed a proposed balloon (Attachment 8) to amend page one line 32, adding language to reflect the words of the Constitution in regards to census adjustments. Senator Schmidt moved to adopt the proposed amendment regarding census adjustment on page one of SCR 1607 and also this language to be included in the "explanatory statement" section on page 5; motion seconded by the Chair and motion carries with Senator Buhler voting against the amendment. Chairperson Allen distributed copies of an email from Richard Hite, Chair of the Supreme Court Nominating Committee, (Attachment 9) which addressed his concerns regarding the involvement of the nominating committee in this proposed process. Senator O'Connor expressed her disagreement with the resolution and the potential affects on elected officials by turning over the redistricting to another body. Senator Schmidt explained the actual role of the committee in this bill, not to appoint but to recommend names for the appointment process. After discussion ended, Senator Schmidt moved to pass SCR 1607 favorably as amended and Senator Buhler seconded. The Chair cast the deciding vote, favorably passing SCR 1607 and Senator O'Connor requested to be recorded as a vote against the resolution.

### Adjournment

Chairperson Allen announced the next meeting to be on Tuesday, March 25, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. and called the meeting adjourned.