

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jene Vickrey at 3:30 P.M. on March 21, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Harold Lane- excused
Representative Dale Swenson- excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Maureen Stinson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mayor Bill Buntun, City of Topeka
Whitney Damron
Neil Dobler, City of Topeka
Christy Caldwell, Topeka Chamber
John Dowell, City of Topeka
Secretary Mike Hayden, Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

SB 575 **Topeka/Shawnee County river front authority act**

Whitney Damron introduced John Dowell, Assistant City Attorney, City of Topeka. Mr. Dowell testified in support of the bill (Attachment 1). He said the Topeka/Shawnee County River Front Authority Act would provide an opportunity to beautify the Kansas River Front and add economic and recreational value to the downtown Topeka area.

Mayor Bill Buntun, City of Topeka, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 2). He said the River Front Authority would develop a plan for the area that would be submitted to the citizens of the city for either adoption or rejection.

Neil Dobler, Director of Public Works, City of Topeka, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 3). He said they have worked with the Corps of Engineers over the last two years on preliminary studies for the river front and are now concentrating on the area between Kansas Avenue and Topeka Boulevard.

Christy Caldwell, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 4). She said the Authority would be charged with developing a master plan for river development that with approval of the citizenry can be the blueprint for Kansas River development in Topeka/Shawnee County.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **SB 575**.

Rep. Otto made a motion for the favorable passage of SB 575. Rep. Yonally seconded the motion. Motion carried. Rep. Oharah and Rep. F. Miller requested to be recorded as "No" votes.

SB 499 **Re-authorization to certain exceptions to KORA**

Rep. Sawyer made a motion for the favorable passage of SB 499. Rep. Huebert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SB 379 **Consolidation of municipalities**

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Governmental Organization and Elections Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 21, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Conferees who had testified at the Thursday, March 16, 2006 meeting returned for questions.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **SB 379**.

SB 379 **Consolidation of municipalities**

Rep. Yonally made a motion to amend the bill to include the requirement of a dual majority vote. Rep. F. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Yonally made a motion to amend the bill to include the language of SB 427 but to remove the requirement of providing compensation for the commission members. He also requested to include the requirement that any expenses related to the study would be born by the two counties. Rep. Huebert seconded the motion. Motion carried nine to five. Rep. Oharah and Rep. Sharp requested to be recorded as "No" votes.

Rep. Sharp made a motion to amend the bill to decrease the proposed members of the commission from nine to eight. Rep. Oharah seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Holland made a motion to amend the bill to lower the petition requirement from ten percent to five percent. Rep. M. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Storm made a motion to amend the bill to require that no more than four commission members are from the same political party. Rep. Sawyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rep. Sawyer made a motion for the favorable passage of **SB 379**. Rep. M. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HB 2093 **Counties; procedure to change boundaries**

Rep. Sawyer made a motion for the favorable passage of HB 2093. Rep. Goico seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Rep. Goico made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2006 meeting. Rep. Faust-Goudeau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Vickrey adjourned the meeting.

No additional meetings for the 2006 Session are scheduled.