

Approved: May 18, 2012
(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael O'Neal at 1:07 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2012, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Vice-Chair Clay Aurand, who was excused, and Representative Jan Pauls, who was replaced by Representative Eber Phelps.

Committee staff present:

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dorothy Noblit, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Craig Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
None

Others in attendance:
See attached list.

The Chair announced that, since the Senate had yet to develop a viable Congressional redistricting map, the House Redistricting Committee might be able to nudge the process along by providing another option for the Senate, a Congressional map patterned after the Sunflower 13 map.

A Congressional map, Kansas 6, was distributed to members (Attachments 1 and 2). The Chairman noted that the map only split three counties, two of which (Greenwood and Douglas) are already split in the current Congressional map. He also commented that, unlike the current map, the University of Kansas campuses are in the same district.

A motion was made by Representative Mast, seconded by Representative Kinzer, to approve the Kansas 6 Congressional map.

During discussion, members made the following observations:

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE REDISTRICTING Committee at 1:00 PM on Thursday, May 17, in Not Specified of the Capitol.

- The House has already done its work by passing a Congressional map. There is no reason to do the Senate's work for them.
- Putting Leavenworth County into the 1st Congressional District creates political dissonance, since the first district is largely rural, whereas Leavenworth has a high degree of military concerns.
- When the majority party draws maps to protect current Congressional incumbents, such as a previous Wyandotte County map or the present Lawrence map, it does a disservice to the voters, especially when the map dilutes the influence of the few Democrat strongholds in the state.
- If the redistricting efforts of the legislature end up under the scrutiny of the federal court system, it is important to show the House position regarding Congressional districts.

The motion passed, 9-7. Representative Peterson was recorded as voting no.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed 9-7 to insert Kansas 6 into **Substitute for SB 145** and to recommend it as favorable for passage. (Motion by Representative Mast and seconded by Representative Schwab) Representative Peterson was recorded as voting no.

The Chairman thanked Committee members and staff for their service and adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m. No further meetings were scheduled.