

Approved: March, 19, 2012

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Terrie Huntington at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 in 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant
Jill Shelley, Analyst/Kansas Department of Legislative Research
Laura Jurgensen, Analyst/Kansas Department of Legislative Research
Mike Heim, Assistant Revisor/ Office of Revisor of Statutes
Susan Duffy, Fiscal Analyst/Kansas Department of Legislative Research

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Joseph Aistrup, Professor/Kansas State University
Kent Cornish, Kansas Association of Broadcasters
Ron Hein, Hein Law Firm Chartered
Thomas Witt, Executive Director/ Kansas Equality Coalition

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

The Chairman asked for bill introductions. Thomas Witt, Executive Director, Kansas Equality Coalition, requested the introduction of a bill that would require the State of Kansas and all election workers, poll workers and others responsible for implementing and enforcing the state's voter identification and voter registration laws. (Attachment 1) Senator Brungardt moved; seconded by Senator Faust-Goudeau. Motion carried.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas and the Kansas Equality Coalition requested the introduction of a bill that would require the State of Kansas to engage in a voter education program designed to reach all persons eligible to vote in Kansas, and that this program be completed no fewer than 60 days prior to the 2012 general election. (Attachment 2) Senator Reitz moved; seconded by Senator Brungardt. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 309–Elections; corrupt political advertising; stand by your ads requirement**. This is a bill that was introduced in 2011 and remains the same. Staff presented an overview of the bill. Senator Schmidt testified in favor of the bill. (Attachment 3) **SB 309** would ensure that candidates for state and local offices let voters know clearly that they are responsible for the advertising content of their ads.

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 SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS Committee at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, February 1, in 159-S of the Capitol.

Dr. Joseph Aistrup, Professor of Political Science, Kansas State University, testified as a proponent of **SB 309**. Dr. Aistrup testified that this bill would reduce negative ads. Voters have a right to hear clear and unambiguous statements about who is paying for the advertisement and which candidate is the beneficiary. (Attachment 4)

Dr. Mark Peterson, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science, Washburn University, a proponent of the bill provided written testimony only. (Attachment 5)

Kent Cornish, President, Kansas Association of Broadcasters, a proponent, indicated that his association backed this bill.

The Chairman opened the continuation of the hearing on **SB 102–Governmental ethics commission; candidate, lobbyist fee increases**. Staff presented a fiscal report on the bill. (Attachment 6)

Ron Hein, Hein Law Firm Chartered, testified as an opponent. He was not opposed to the fee increases but would like to see the gift limits raised along with the fee increases to account for inflation. (Attachment 7)

Carol Williams, Executive Director, Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, stood for questions from the committee. She indicated that that state agencies are subject to the gift requirements due to special interests. The amendment proposed by Luke Bell, Executive Director, Kansas Society of Associations would take care of those concerns. The Commission proposed eliminating the wrap-up report because it is redundant.

Senator Schmidt introduced her intern.

There being no further discussion, the hearing was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM.

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