

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 January 19, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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:

Representative Bill Feuerborn
Richard Jackson, Ottawa Black Awareness Committee
Brandon Myers, Kansas Human Rights Commission
Representative Terrie Huntington
John Sheets, Homes Associations of the Country Club District

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

At the request of Carol Williams, Executive Director, Rep. Vickrey asked for a committee bill on behalf of the Governmental Ethics Commission. The proposed legislation amends K.S.A. 46-237a as it relates to meals.

Without objection, the request will be accepted as a committee bill.

Rep. Stephanie Sharp requested a committee bill allowing businesses to file with the Elections Commission if they are unpaid for their services by candidates.

Without objection, the request will be accepted as a committee bill.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

HB 2544 **Housing discrimination, removal of restrictive covenants in homeowners association documents**

Rep. Bill Feuerborn briefly explained that **HB 2544** would amend the Kansas Act against Discrimination to prohibit discrimination in homeowners associations' restrictive covenants based on the protected classes of race, religion, color, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, and ancestry. Rep. Feuerborn expressed his support for the bill.

Richard Jackson, Ottawa Black Awareness Committee, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 1). He said that in 2005, the State of Missouri enacted legislation requiring homeowner associations to remove restrictive covenants.

Brandon Myers, Kansas Human Rights Commission, submitted written testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 2). He was present at the hearing and available for questions.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2544**.

HB 2582 **Homeowner associations - prohibition of discriminatory restrictive covenants**

Rep. Terrie Huntington testified in support of **HB 2582** (Attachment 3). She said the bill allows for removal of only the restrictive covenants pertaining to discrimination against race and religion, thus bringing homes association covenants into compliance with Federal Law.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Governmental Organization and Elections Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 19, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

John Sheets, Homes Associations of the Country Club District, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 4). He encouraged passage of the proposed legislation which allows for the removal of racial deed restrictions.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2582**.

HB 2544 **Housing discrimination, removal of restrictive covenants in homeowners association documents**

HB 2582 **Homeowner associations - prohibition of discriminatory restrictive covenants**

After lengthy discussion regarding **HB 2544** and **HB 2582**, the Committee decided to move forward with **HB 2582**.

Rep. Goico made a motion for the favorable passage of HB 2582. Rep. Faust-Goudeau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Rep. Sawyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2006 meeting. Rep. Faust-Goudeau seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Chairman Vickrey adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2006.