

## 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 25, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative Barbie Craft- excused
- Representative Melody Miller- 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:

- Rep. Mario Goico
- David Finley, Kansas Plumbing, Heating Cooling Contractors, Mechanical & Sheet Metal Contractor's Association
- Lonny Wright
- Mike Lee
- Bruce Pfeiffer
- Jerry Jones, MTAC, Plumber's & Pipe fitters Local Union # 441
- Larry Baer, League of Kansas Municipalities
- Rep. Harold Lane
- Bob Haselwood
- Vic Miller, Shawnee County Commissioner
- Rep. Ann Mah
- Rep. Becky Hutchins
- Duane Pomeroy, Topeka City Council
- Paul Degener
- Marvin Smith

Others attending:

See attached list.

### **Bill Introductions**

Randall Allen, Kansas Association of Counties, requested two committee bills:

- Threshold for Bidding County Construction Projects
- Threshold for Surety Bond Posting on County Construction Projects

Without objection, the requests will be accepted as committee bills.

### **Elections Status - Office of the Secretary of State**

Brad Bryant, Office of the Secretary of State, informed the committee of the requested legislation concerning elections in the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government (Attachment 1). He also briefed the committee on the status of the implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in Kansas (Attachment 2).

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

#### **HB 2041      Campaign finance, use of unexpended campaign funds**

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research, briefed the committee on HB 2041.

Carol Williams, Governmental Ethics Commission, provided agency information concerning HB 2041 (Attachment 3).

Rep. Goico testified as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 4). He explained that the bill would make changes to the Campaign Finance Act, allowing candidates for public office to transfer money from one specific campaign fund to another.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on HB 2041.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

#### **HB 2058      Requiring continuing education for certain contractors licensed by cities and counties**

David Finley, Kansas Plumbing, Heating Cooling Contractors, and Mechanical & Sheet Metal Contractor's Association, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 5).

Lonny Wright, a second-generation plumber from Wichita, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 6). He said HB 2058 is the right legislation for the protection and safety of the public.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mike Lee, Lower Mechanical Company, testified as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 7). He stated that the bill would require license holders of trades to attend six hours a year of continuing education.

Bruce Pfeiffer, City of Topeka Development Services Division, testified as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 8). He explained that the bill would require a minimum of 2 years field experience by individuals desiring to work in the plumbing, heating and air conditioning trades, prior to taking the State trade examinations.

Jerry Jones, United Association of the Plumbers and Pipe Fitter Local Union # 441, testified as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 9). He said that the Local Union, the Training Programs, and their signatory contractors wholeheartedly support the adoption of **HB 2058**.

Glen Wiltse, Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, submitted written testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 10).

Larry Baer, League of Kansas Municipalities, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 11). He said the bill impinges upon the city's right of local control.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2058**.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

**HB 2083**      **Consolidation of Topeka and Shawnee County**

Rep. Harold Lane appeared as a proponent of the bill (Attachment 12). He testified that in November 2004, voters in Topeka and Shawnee County approved authorization to the Legislature to create a commission to create a plan to consolidate the governments for Topeka and Shawnee County. He said that the Shawnee County Legislation Delegation unanimously agreed to the proposed legislation. Rep. Lane explained that House Speaker Doug Mays guided the delegation through the process of drafting the bill during their December meeting.

Bob Haselwood testified in support of the bill (Attachment 13). He said that **HB 2083** does a good job of establishing guidelines for commission appointment and other provisions in a fair and equitable manner.

Vic Miller, Chairman, Shawnee County Commission, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 14). He clarified that he was speaking on his own behalf and not on behalf of the Shawnee County Commission. He said the City of Topeka objects to the short moratorium on unilateral annexation that will exist while the consolidation commission completes its work but that he doesn't recall a single unilateral annexation in Topeka in the last fifteen years.

Bruce Thomas, President, Shawnee County Farm Bureau, submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2083** (Attachment 15).

Rep. Ann Mah testified in support of the bill. No written testimony was provided.

Rep. Becky Hutchins testified in support of the bill. No written testimony was provided.

Duane Pomeroy, Topeka City Council, appeared as an opponent of the bill (Attachment 16). He urged the committee to amend the bill or kill it in its present form.

Paul Degener testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 17). He said the legislation is going to give the authority to an appointed commission to determine which officials will be appointed or eliminated.

Marvin Smith testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 18). He said he opposes the bill because it changes the form of county and city government from elected officials to a consolidated form of government.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2083**.

The meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2005.