

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tim Huelskamp at 1:30 P.M. on February 13, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Matt Spurgin, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes
Zoie Kern, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Dennis Pyle

Others provisional:

See attached list.

Senator Pyle began with his testimony on **SB 152 Vacancy in office of US Senator; procedure (Attachment 1 and 2).**

Discussion.

Hearing closed.

Open discussion on **SB 159 Elections; security of advanced voting ballots (Attachment 3).**

Senator Betts asking that voters who do not sign back of their ballot be contacted by courtesy call or have a designated person drive to voters address to obtain the signature.

Motion made by Senator Reitz to accept Senator Betts amendment.

Discussion.

Senator Petersen stated you cannot cover all the basis. He cannot support this amendment.

Senator Wilson knowing the process of ballots well, stated it is hard enough to get the basics done. It is too much to put on local counties. He can't support Senator Betts amendment.

Senator Reitz said non-signature ballots are already covered by law.

Brad Bryant, if there is any questions in regards to a ballot is it is considered provisional. The law says if it is not it is not counted.

Senator Betts; if they look at the ballot and it is not signed they can call them.

Senator Francisco; wording requires only an attempt to contact voter.

Senator Donovan, is the number on the ballot?

Brad Bryant; No, is the reply, it would have to be located providing they have one. The voter needs to take some responsibility in the process. Voter designation is to create who handled the ballot, a paper trail. We loose custody if we veer from this.

Senator Betts offers to clarify his amendment.

Senator Reitz suggests telephone number on ballot.

Senator Huelskamp stated too much money.

Senator Lynn not comfortable with supporting this.

Senator Pyle If we allow a phone call, what is the time frame, this could go on for days.

Senator Betts; I have to be loyal to my constituents.

Senator Pyle; what about ice storms?

Senator Betts; goes provisional.

Senator Huelskamp consider integrity of the voter.

Senator Francisco; phone number should be a part of the voters registration not on the ballot.

Senator Betts restated his amendment on **SB 159.**

Vote.

Motion failed.

Senator Francisco moved to have a revision and was second by Senator Betts.

Discussion.

Motion failed 3 to 6.

Senator Huelskamp motioned to keep SB 159 as amended.

Senator Pyle motioned and second by Senator Donovan to move SB 159 out favorably.

Senator Betts and Senator Francisco voted no.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Elections and Local Government Committee at 1:30 P.M. on February 13, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Motion carried.

Senator Pyle moved that **SB 152 Concerning vacancy in United State Senator position**; be amended as follows; page 2, line 31 have the word "district" stricken.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Zoie Kern, Committee Secretary