

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on February 8, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes Office
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards
Dan Gibb, Office of the Attorney General
Caroline Trowbridge, Kansas Press Association
Kimberly Winn, League of Kansas Municipalities
Judy Moler, Kansas Association of Counties

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman asked staff an overview of the bill, which is very similar to **SB 410** from the 2006 legislative session.

SB 194 - Public officials; required training regarding KOMA and KORA

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **SB 194**.

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards, (KASB) spoke in support of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#)) KASB believes school board members can benefit from training to effectively carry out their responsibilities and duties for their elected positions. They do have some concerns over the language in the 90 days period and the course information.

Dan Gibb, Assistant Attorney General, in support of the concept of the bill. ([Attachment 2](#)) The Attorney General's (AG) office does not support the exact language that is in the bill; he does believe that this is a worthwhile effort and is committed to investing the resources of the Office to help draft language that is acceptable to all of the interested parties. As the bill is written, it places too much burden on the resources of the AG's office, and to provide the massive amount of in-person training mandated by the legislation, most public officials will need to receive training through electronic means, rather than in-person training. The bill permits the AG office to allow other organizations to provide training, and still retain control over the subject matter. It is important that the bill language be drafted deliberately and take into account all of the possible implications of a new law, and ask that the AG's office time to meet with the interested parties and develop amending language to the bill that would address their concerns.

Staff provided information on the Fiscal Note, ([Attachment 3](#)) which would require \$185,000 to administer the bill and two new Assistant Attorney General positions at a cost total of \$125,000; additionally the agency would require \$3,000 for travel expenditures and \$57,500 for certificate supplies, video production and one new support staff position.

Caroline Trowbridge, Kansas Press Association, (KPA) spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 4](#)) The KPA believe that when the public officials are informed then the public's business is more likely to be transacted with transparency and according to state law, and requires elected and some appointed officials to undergo training on the Kansas Open Records Act and the Kansas Open Meetings Act after being sworn into office. The KPA promises to provide the materials free of charge, so that every public official has access to the materials, and promises to work with the League of Kansas Municipalities, the Kansas Association of Counties, the Kansas Association of School Boards, the AG's office, and other interested parties to produce

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee at 10:30 a.m. on February 8, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

an education training program.

Harriet Lange, Kansas Association of Broadcasters, provided written testimony in support of the bill. (Attachment 5)

Kimberly Winn, Director of Policy Development & Communications, League of Kansas Municipalities, (LKM) spoke in opposition of the bill. (Attachment 6) The LKM is a strong advocates for KOMA/KORA training and has been training city and county officials on these Acts since their inception. The way the bill is written it could be interpreted to require all police officers to undergo KOMA and KORA training and that would be an inappropriate use of their time. The LKM oppose the unworkable mandate proposed by the bill and respectfully requests the committeenot recommend it favorably for passage.

Judy Moler, General Counsel, Kansas Association of Counties, (KAC) testified in opposition of the bill. (Attachment 7) The KAC believes that this is a non-existent problem, and have in the last four months offered two educational programs on the KOMA/KORA. The KAC does support training on KOMA/KORA, but does not think it needs a statutory mandate, and respectfully requests the committee reject the bill.

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **SB 194**.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am. The next scheduled meeting is February 13, 2007.