

MINUTES OF THE SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roger Reitz at 9:30 a.m. on March 9, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All Committee members were present except:
Senator Carolyn McGinn- excused

Committee staff present:
Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Noell Memmott, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Whitney Damron, On Behalf of the City of Topeka
Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager, City of Topeka

Others attending:
See attached list.

The hearing opened on **HB 2155 - City of Topeka land bank**. Mike Heim, revisor, reviewed the bill. The bill would establish The City of Topeka land bank which is patterned after Wyandotte County's Land Bank.

Whitney Damron, On Behalf of the City of Topeka, explained that the City of Topeka would work with Shawnee County and other housing and revitalization constituencies in the community to develop a land bank program. (Attachment 1)

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager, City of Topeka, spoke as a proponent of the bill. He related that given the current state of the economy, the City of Topeka needs to have all available tools to address the foreclosures and pending restructuring of residential debt. He thinks any resource or tool that assists a municipality in stabilizing and improving its tax base is a positive step in the right direction. (Attachment 2)

The Committee discussed the bill. It was questioned whether the bill should be more encompassing and allow other cities to establish a Land Bank, if so desired.

The discussion will continue March 16.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.