

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Senator Janice Hardenburger at 1:30 p.m. on February 2, 2000, in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Lawrence

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes
Graceanna Wood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Randy Allen, Exec. Dir. Kansas Association of Counties
Dan Hermes, Director of Governmental Affairs, Governor's office
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Tom Tunnell, Kansas Society Assn. Executives
Carol Williams, Exec. Dir., KGEC

Chairman Hardenburger called the meeting to order and requested introduction of bills.

Randy Allen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Counties, requested introduction of a bill to Amend K.S.A. 19-214, concerning contracts for the construction of county facilities. (Attachment #1)

Senator Becker moved that the bill be introduced, seconded by Senator Gooch. Motion carried.

Senator Huelskamp requested introduction of a bill which would allow tax credit for a campaign finance contribution.

Senator Huelskamp moved that the bill be introduced, seconded by Senator Steineger. Motion carried.

Chairman Hardenburger opened hearings on **SB 464 concerning campaign finance; establishing requirements for electronic filing of reporting of campaign contributions.**

Dan Hermes, Director of Governmental Affairs, Governor's Office, who is the sponsor of the bill, informed the Committee that this bill had two primary provisions, first, it closes the campaign reporting windows that exist the 11 days prior to the primary and general election for statewide races, and second, the bill requires the Secretary of State to develop a system to provide for the electronic filing of campaign finance reports. (Attachment #2)

The Committee discussed the time frame.

Chairman Hardenburger advised the Committee that currently in the federal races, the congressional races and United States Senate races, the last minute contributions have to be reported every 24 hours in a similar time frame. This bill would apply to statewide races, the Governor, the Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Insurance. The candidates would have to report contributions over \$50 every day 11 days prior to the election. Chairman Hardenburger stressed that the large amount of money is what the public needs to know about; that is, if there is a flow of thousands of dollars into the last minute effort. Presently that information is not available until the next reporting date which would be 10 days before the general election, and then the first of the year in January. She further advised that the federal requirement is set at a higher threshold to facilitate reporting.

The Committee discussed the threshold, and whether or not it should be changed.

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, testified in support of **SB 464**, addressing primarily the electronic filing aspect of the bill. (Attachment #3)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Carol Williams, Executive Director, Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, informed the Committee, that she could not relay the Commission's position whether to support the bill or not. She said historically, many contributions have been received by statewide candidates in the final days before an election, and under current law, any contribution which is received during the time period from eleven days before the primary election through the date of the primary election is not disclosed on a receipts and expenditures report until 8 days before the general election. This is not disclosed until the January 10 Receipts and Expenditures Report is filed. (Attachment #4)

Chairman Hardenburger opened hearings on **SB 462 concerning campaign finance; relating to contributions and repealing the existing section.**

Dan Hermes, on behalf of the Governor, presented testimony to the Committee in favor of the bill. He advised the Committee this bill would broaden the ban on solicitation of campaign contributions during the legislative session between January 1 and sine die. The bill extends the ban to recognized party committees of the House and Senate and individual leadership political action committees. (Attachment #5)

Chairman Hardenburger closed hearings on **SB 464** and opened further hearings on **SB 462.**

Tom Tunnell, Kansas Society of Association Executives presented testimony in support of **SB 462.** He said that his Association believes that the components of the bill compliment the current law that prohibits individual legislator and election committee contribution requests. (Attachment #6)

Carol Williams, Executive Director of the Governmental Ethics Commission, said the KGEC has no position on this bill, however, she advised the Committee that under current law, the recognized party committees set up in each chamber are permitted to accept contributions during session, and legislators are permitted to solicit contributions for these committees during session. Ms. Williams said that there were four chamber PAC's and four leadership PAC's. She said House and Senate Committee PAC's raised \$122,000 during the post legislative session. (Attachment #7)

Senator Huelskamp requested breakdown of the \$122,000 from the Commission.

Chairman Hardenburger closed hearings on **SB 462.** She advised the Committee that **SB 462** and **SB 464** would be worked next week.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2000.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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