

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Huebert at 1:30pm on Tuesday, February 03, 2015, 281-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Mike Kiegerl – Excused

Committee staff present:

Cindy Lash, Legislative Research Department

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department

Maureen Stinson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Daniel Yoza, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Ed Trimmer, State Representative; H. Douglas Pfalzgraf, Sumner County; Jason Watkins,

Sedgwick County; Leon Hobson, Riley County; Clancy Holeman, Riley County; Robert L.

Boyd, Jr., Riley County Commission; Melissa Wangemann, Kansas Association of Counties

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Chair Huebert called the meeting to order.

Representative J.R. Claeys requested a committee bill relating to municipalities and the use of internet as official publication.

Representative Steven Becker requested a committee bill relating to certain counties and dealing with county treasurers.

Representative Virgil Peck requested a committee bill relating to requiring post secondary institutions to adopt and implement a policy and plan to prohibit employees from using their official titles in certain publications.

Hearing on: HB2165 — Certain improvement districts; procedure for filling vacancies.

Chair Huebert opened the hearing on **HB 2165**.

Mike Heim, Senior Assistant Revisor, presented an overview of the bill.

Chair Huebert requested staff provide information on the current improvement districts within the state.

Representative Ed Trimmer, 79th District, appeared as a proponent of the bill. He explained that the proposed legislation is simply asking that Sumner and Sedgwick Counties be afforded the right to appoint members to the board of the Peck Sewer Improvement District in the absence of elected officials who have resigned or are unwilling to serve. He testified that the proposed legislation is

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specific to only this one improvement district. ([Attachment 1](#))

H. Douglas Pfalzgraf, Assistant County Counselor, Sumner County, appeared as a proponent of the bill. He testified that the proposed legislation is an attempt, in the least intrusive manner possible, to allow continued operation of the Peck Improvement District by allowing county commission members to appoint board members to the Peck Improvement District. He explained that the Peck Improvement District was created in 2003 to provide sewer services to its members. He noted that the Peck Improvement District is located in both Sumner and Sedgwick Counties and serves approximately 110 tracts. ([Attachment 2](#))

Jason Watkins, Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners, appeared as a proponent of the bill. He proposed a balloon amendment to the bill stating that the Sedgwick County Commissioners shall have the right to approve or disapprove the appointment of a director by the Board of Commissioners of Sumner County. ([Attachment 3](#))

Chair Huebert closed the hearing on **HB 2165**.

Hearing on: HB2164 — Certain sewer districts; construction contract bid threshold raised.

Chair Huebert opened the hearing on **HB 2164**.

Mike Heim, Senior Assistant Revisor, presented an overview of the bill.

Leon Hobson, Director of Public Works, Riley County Public Works, appeared as a proponent of the bill. He testified that typical repairs in a Riley County sewer benefit district often exceed \$1,000.00. He believes that the current \$1,000.00 threshold requiring competitive bids is far too low to be practical. He requested that the proposed legislation be amended to raise the bid threshold from \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00. ([Attachment 4](#))

Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, appeared as a proponent of the bill. He explained that the bill was originally introduced requesting the \$15,000.00 threshold. They are supportive of the bill and request the threshold be increased to \$25,000.00 rather than \$15,000.00. ([Attachment 5](#))

Robert Boyd, Jr., Board of Riley County Commissioners, appeared as a proponent of the bill. He testified that with the proposed legislation no district will be forced to allow a district's system to remain inoperable while formal competitive bids are let for repairs costing as little as \$1,0001.00. ([Attachment 6](#))

Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel, Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), appeared as a proponent of the bill. She explained that while the proposed legislation lists \$15,000.00 as the new threshold requiring bids, KAC adopted a policy statement to raise the amount to \$25,000.00. She testified that this matches the amount in the general construction statute for counties. She said that

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KAC would suggest amending **HB 2164** to raise the standard to \$25,000.00 to create uniformity and consistency among the statues on construction of buildings, roads and other structures. ([Attachment 7](#))

Chair Huebert closed the hearing on **HB 2164**.

Chair Huebert adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 5th, 2015.