

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Tony Powell at 1:00 p.m. on March 26, 2001 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Jim Morrison, Excused
Representative John Toplikar, Excused
Representative Ted Powers, Excused

Committee staff present: Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Weideman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

SB 314 - Proponent: Steve Kearney, Kansas State Trooper's Association

Others attending: See attached list.

Chair Powell opened the hearing on **SB 314 - Kansas Highway Patrol, political activity restrictions.**

Steve Kearney, Kansas State Trooper's Association, appeared before the committee as a proponent of **SB 314.** He said that the current statute does not allow members of the Kansas Highway Patrol to participate in any political exercise beyond casting a ballot. He mentioned a letter from Attorney General Robert Stephan from 1984 that outlines activities that are permissible by highway patrol members. Mr. Kearney indicated that the Kansas Highway Patrol should have the same rights to participate in political activity as other officers and employees of the State of Kansas. (attachment #1) Mr. Kearney answered questions asked by committee members.

There being no further discussion, hearing was closed on **SB 314.**

Representative Hermes moved and it was seconded by Representative Alldritt that **SB 314** be passed favorably from the committee. Motion passed.

Chairman Powell asked for other bills that the committee wished to work. There were no further recommendations.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.