

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lisa Benlon at 3:40 p.m. on February 7, 2000 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Margaret Long (E)
Kay O'Connor (E)

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Research
Mary Galligan, Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor
Dee Woodson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairperson Lisa Benlon announced to the Committee that the hearing scheduled today for HB 2738 has been postponed due to the proponents of this bill not being available to testify.

HB 2323 - Governmental ethics; establishing requirements regarding gifts and hospitality

Revisor presented the Committee with a balloon of **HB 2323**. She went over the revised bill, and explained the changes the Committee had requested in their previous meeting. Research staff was asked to explain the amendment the Department of Administration had requested to Sec. 2. K.S.A. 1999 Supp. 16a-2-403, which in essence gave an exemption to the state agencies for charging a surcharge for use of credit cards. The Revisor explained that the bill as drafted does not authorize the imposition of a surcharge, and that the Department of Administration had misread the bill. The Chair recounted that the Committee did not want a surcharge and their intent was to not have surcharges, but only recover the cost of the costs they incurred by handling the credit cards.

Representative Storm asked the difference between a surcharge and a transaction fee. The Chair explained the difference and Research confirmed the explanation. She also asked for a change in verbiage under the new Section 1.(a) changing "impose additional fees" to "an additional fee". The Revisor suggested for clarity to change it to say, "impose an additional fee to recover the actual amount of any cost incurred".

Representative Johnston made a motion to accept the balloon without Section 2, and with the new language to actual amount of any cost by reason of the method of payment used by the payee. The motion was seconded by Representative Barnes, and the motion carried.

Representative Johnston moved to approve the substitute bill HB 2323 and move it out of Committee. Representative Vining seconded and the motion carried.

Chairperson Benlon asked if there was any other business. Representative Johnston requested to have a hearing on his educational bill. The Chair stated that she would converse with the House Speaker and have it referred to the Education Committee where it should be heard.

Chairman Benlon adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Governmental Organization and Elections Committee will be Wednesday, February 9, 2000, 3:30 p.m., Room 521-S.