

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Burgess at 3:30 P.M. on February 14, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Melody McCray-Miller- excused
Representative Mike Peterson- excused

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Matt Spurgin, Legislative Research Department
Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes Office
Maureen Stinson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Kent Weatherby
Fred Rogge
Greg Wilson
Mark Schreiber
Kim Christiansen
Randall Allen
Tom Fuhman
Lonie Addis
Leonard Buddenbohn
Mark Beck

Others attending:

See attached list.

HB 2126 Addition to membership of the Kansas water authority

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on **HB 2126**.

Kent Weatherby, Kansas River Water District No. 1, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). He said that passage of the bill would provide one seat on the Kansas Water Authority for a representative of the three water assurance districts.

Fred Rogge, Cottonwood/Neosho River Basins Water Assurance District No. 3, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 2](#)). He explained that the board members realize the importance of having a representative on the Kansas Water Authority whose primary focus will be on surface water interests.

Greg Wilson testified in support of the bill. No written testimony was provided.

Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 3](#)). He explained that water assurance districts are currently not represented on the Kansas Water Authority and that with this representation, the Kansas Water Authority would benefit from the input of a group that represents some of the largest water users in the state.

Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by the following:

Norton Bonaparte, City of Topeka ([Attachment 4](#))
Weldon Padgett, City of Ottawa ([Attachment 5](#))
Gary Mahon, City of La Cygne ([Attachment 6](#))
Gerald McIntyre, City of Manhattan ([Attachment 7](#))
Mike Amyx, City of Lawrence ([Attachment 8](#))
Garry Turner, City of Olathe ([Attachment 9](#))

Kim Christiansen, Kansas Water Office, testified as neutral to the bill ([Attachment 10](#)).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Elections and Governmental Organization Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 14, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2126**.

HB 2153 County appraisers, elections thereof

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on **HB 2153**.

Randall Allen, Kansas Association of Counties, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 11). He said that an election of county appraisers does not guarantee any more accountability than appointing county appraisers. He also explained that the bill eliminates appraiser districts, which are a cost saving measure for many smaller counties in Kansas.

Tom Fuhrman, Landmark Appraisal, Inc., testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 12). He explained that current statutes are sufficient and the enactment of the bill would be detrimental to, at least, the 36 counties that currently use the services of a part-time County Appraiser.

Lonie Addis, County Commissioner, Labette County, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 13). He explained that allowing counties to consolidate their appraiser position, enables counties to maintain professional services at a minimal expense to tax payers.

Leonard Buddenbohm, Attorney, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 14). He explained that making the county appraiser an elected position would result in a conflict of politics versus professionalism.

Mark Beck, Property Valuation Division, Kansas Department of Revenue, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 15). He explained that current law provides a method for either the board of county commissioners or the director of property valuation to remove or suspend a county appraiser from office if the county appraiser was not following state laws pertaining to the appraisal or assessment of property.

Written testimony in opposition to the bill was submitted by:

William Johnson, Butler County Administrator (Attachment 16)

Bill Oswald, Kansas Legislative Policy Group (Attachment 17)

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2153**.

HB 2280 Cities; benefit fees for certain services

Representative Huebert made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2280**. Representative Brunk seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2007.