

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 March 7, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Harold Lane- excused
Representative Mike Peterson- excused
Representative Sue Storm- 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:

Brad Bryant
Donald Merriman
Kevin Siek
Rocky Nichols

Others attending:

See attached list.

SB 159 Elections; security of advance voting ballots

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on **SB 159**.

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). He explained that Section 2 contains cleanup language to update references to voters with disabilities or lack of proficiency in reading the English language. He said that change does not affect the substance of the bill or the voting procedures used by voters with disabilities.

Donald Merriman, Saline County Clerk, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 2](#)). He explained that they have had several instances over the past years where someone with a Power of Attorney has over stepped their role as a P.O.A. in signing for the ill or disabled voter.

Kevin Siek, Topeka Independent Living Resource Center, submitted written testimony in support of the bill ([Attachment 3](#)).

Rocky Nichols, Disability Rights Center of Kansas, testified neutral to the bill ([Attachment 4](#)). He said the overarching concern is that it puts a new requirement and new burden (albeit potentially a small one) on the person with a disability in regards to voting.

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **SB 159**.

SB 160 Elections; Direct recording electronic voting systems

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on **SB 160**.

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 5](#)). He urged the Committee to pass **SB 160** to make state laws governing the certification and use of electronic voting machines consistent with the Help America Vote Act, and to bring the language of the laws up to date.

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **SB 160**.

Rep. Brunk made a motion for the favorable approval of minutes for March 6, 2007. Rep. Horst seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2007.