

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vicki Schmidt at 9:30 a.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Long, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jean Schodorf, Kansas Senator
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator, State Board of Education

Others attending:

See attached list.

Staff explanation of **SB 71** indicated this bill amends 25-90-1 with the addition of language requiring detailed accounting of receipts and expenditures showing from whom such moneys or property were received, specific purposes for each payment and the exact nature of the service rendered before the second day preceding the election for the period beginning 12 days before the election and ending three days before the election.

Senator Schodorf, speaking in favor of the bill (Attachment 1), stated that in addition, contributions of \$300 or more would be reported.

Senator Wagle asked if this would mirror the current law for state legislators. Staff replied that this was not entirely the case and was the reason for the addition of three (3) additional days. The Chair then directed the Revisors office to please revisit the language in this bill and incorporate clarification the manner in which school districts report, who oversees such reporting, advisory elections, and the areas of education vs advocacy regarding school boards.

The Chair thanked Senator Schodorf for appearing.

The Chair then recognized Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, and in testifying in favor of **SB 71** re-emphasized that the laws regarding school districts are very strict; they may only educate by simply giving facts, not encouraging the vote in either direction (Attachment 2).

There being no further conferees the hearing on **SB 71** was closed.

The hearing on **SB 43–State board of education; campaign contributions; limitations** was opened.

Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator, State Board of Education, appeared in favor of this bill. Simply stated, this bill would increase the current limit on contributions from \$500 to \$1,000. The rationale being that a candidate for the State Board of Education has an area of responsibility approximately four (4) times larger than that of a Kansas Senator (Attachment 3).

Written testimony in support of **SB 43** was submitted by:

Bill Waganon, (Attachment 4)

There being no further questions from the committee, the hearing on **SB 43** was closed.

Chairman Schmidt called for final action on **SB 43–State board of education; campaign contributions; limitations**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Ethics And Elections Committee at 9:30 a.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

Senator Brunghardt moved, Senator Kultala seconded, to recommend **SB 43** for passage. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2009.