

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Tony Powell at 3:30 p.m. on February 13, 2002 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Steve Huebert, Excused
Representative Gwen Welshimer, Excused

Committee staff present: Kenneth Wilke, Revisor
Dennis Hodgins, Research
Shirley Weideman, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Others attending: See attached list

HB 2761 - Election procedures; voting by felons.

Chairman Powell brought the committee's attention to an issue that the bill doesn't cover. The election officers take the word of the voter that he or she is not a convicted felon. To clear up this issue, he would like an amendment to this bill that would require the Department of Corrections and the KBI to notify the Secretary of State's Office monthly the number of felony convictions during that period..

Representative Ray moved and Representative Huff seconded Chairman Powell's motion to amend HB 2761.

Discussion followed with concerns regarding the fiscal effect of this bill, whether the information on the data base of name, date of birth, race, social security number and gender would be shared with election officials and whether the Department of Corrections, the KBI or the county sheriff's office should handle the notification. Guest Kyle Smith of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation answered questions concerning the data base for Kansas. He said that all felons in Kansas, including those on parole are in the sheriff's data base.

Without objection Chair Powell withdrew his original amendment.

Representative Morrison moved and Representative Hermes seconded the motion that HB 2761 be amended to require the election officer of every county to check with the sheriff of their county for any convicted felons on their list of new registrants Motion carried.

Representative Mayans moved and Representative Morrison seconded the motion that HB 2761 as amended be passed favorably from committee. Representatiave Wilson is on record as voting no on the bill. Division was called. Six members voted for the motion and five members voted against the motion. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be February 20 at 3:30 p.m.