

Approved: March 9, 2012

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Huebert at 3:30 PM on Thursday, February 9, 2012, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representative Don Hineman, who was excused.

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Eunice Peters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

House Speaker, Mike O'Neal, Hutchinson, Kansas
Dr. Shelly Kiblinger, Superintendent, Hutchinson Public Schools

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Hearing On: **HB 2555 – Recreation Commissions; joint district recreation systems; changes**

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2555**. House Speaker Mike O'Neal commented on the original bill and introduced an amendment to **HB 2555**, which was requested by citizens at the local level (Attachments 1 and 2). He explained that the language in **HB 2555** would accommodate an expansion of the tax base, which is currently determined by school district boundaries. He noted that the Hutchinson Recreation Commission and USD #308 have reached an agreement for a joint recreation system with equitable taxation for the residents of the city.

Dr. Shelly Kiblinger, Superintendent of Hutchinson Public Schools, spoke in support of **HB 2555**, saying that the boundaries of the school district are within the city limits and approximately twenty-five percent of the taxable city property is outside the boundaries of District #308 (Attachment 3). She stated that the tax rate for USD #308 would be lowered to 3.669 mills, which results in a tax savings of \$7.00 per year on a \$50,000 property; city residents not residing in the school district would see an increase of \$20.00 per year on a \$50,000 property. Dr. Kiblinger noted that expansion of the tax base to the city would provide additional services in the future as the city of Hutchinson continues to grow.

The following persons were introduced to make comments and answer questions.

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Tom Cook, Director of the Hutchinson Recreation Commission, commented on the cooperation between the Buhler school district and district #308 for recreation facilities. He said this bill will offer additional facilities for all the citizens and will make possible the inclusion of additional entities in the future.

Paul Brown, Hutchinson City Attorney, said a two-fold problem exists in that having a two-question ballot could result in inconsistent results—no recreation commission at all or the possibility of two recreation systems depending on how the voters viewed the question. He said the amendment to **K.S.A. 12-1925** would allow the existing recreation commission to remain in place, keep the existing funding, and transfer responsibilities to the city.

Doug Vance, Executive Director, Kansas Recreation and Park Associations, said his contact with a number of members of the association have expressed no objection to the language of this legislation and do not see it having any impact on recreation facilities outside the city of Hutchinson.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2555**.

The Chairman called for the report of the sub-committee on **HB 2084**. Staff Eunice Peters referenced the balloon language on pages 2-4 and 10, saying a technical amendment strikes the language in lines 17-20 on page 3, dual majority language is noted on page 4, and a year date in line 6 on page 10 is corrected (Attachment 4).

Following discussion, the Chairman called for working **HB 2084**. Staff Eunice Peters reviewed the sections of the bill before members voted. *Representative Sloan moved to adopt the balloon of **HB 2084**. Representative Lane seconded the motion.. The motion passed.*

Representative Bill Otto moved to amend the bill by adding the words “general county-wide election”. Representative Billinger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Representative Ann Mah moved to approve the bill as amended as favorable for passage. Representative Joe Seiwert seconded the motion to approve the bill as amended and favorable for passage. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

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