

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 9:30 a.m. on January 26, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Assistant Revisor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Jill Shelley, Principal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Reed Holwegner, Principal Analyst, Legislative Research Department  
Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator, State Board of Education  
Senator Steve Abrams

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 17 - Increasing campaign contribution limits for candidates for the state board of education.** This bill would increase the campaign contribution limit for State Board of Education candidates from \$500 to \$1,000 for each primary or general election. This limit would apply to certain types of contributions. This bill has been introduced at least four times in the past.

Senator Steve Abrams spoke in favor of the bill. He stated that each State School Board district is four times the size of a senate district and it would seem logical that the maximum contribution would be at least double the maximum contribution for a Senate election or even more. (Attachment 1)

Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator, State Board of Education, spoke in favor of the bill. In her experience, the cost of one mailing for the State Board race was equivalent to at least seven mailings in her prior campaigns for the House of Representatives. (Attachment 2)

There being no further discussion, the hearing was closed.

The Chairman asked for new bill introductions. Senator Schmidt asked for a bill regarding public service announcements not being on the air sixty days prior to a general election.

Senator Schmidt moved, seconded by Senator Brungardt. Motion carried.

Senator Schmidt introduced a bill that would allow the public to distinguish between ads that are from a candidate and which ads are issue ads.

Senator Schmidt moved, seconded by Senator Brungardt. Motion carried.

Senator Kultala asked the Chairman if the Committee could work **SB 17 - Increasing campaign contribution limits for candidates for the state board of education** immediately. There were no objections.

Senator Kelsey moved, seconded by Senator Faust-Goudeau. Motion carried.

The Chairman thanked everyone for appearing before the Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.