

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Terrie Huntington at 9:35 a.m. on March 17, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Elections and Legislative Matters
Thomas Witt, Executive Director, Kansas Equality Coalition
Representative Steve Huebert, Kansas House of Representatives
Don Moler, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities
Stuart Little, representing Shawnee Mission School District
John Bradford, Republican Party Chairman, Leavenworth County
Joanne Long, Bourbon County Clerk
Donald Pyle, Crawford County Clerk and Election Officer

The Chairman called the meeting to order and opened the floor for final action on **HB 2067 - Voter photographic identification requirements**, that continued from March 16, 2011. The Revisor distributed copies of the bill as amended by the House Committee with the amendments that the Ethics and Elections Committee passed previously. (Attachment 1)

The Committee amended the bill to require a county to assist with and transmit forms to the State Registrar's Office at no charge to any person applying for a birth certificate for the purposes of registering to vote. Motion by Senator Faust-Goudeau, seconded by Senator Brungardt. Senator Schmidt proposed a substitute amendment to delete language from the bill. Motion by Senator Faust-Goudeau, seconded by Senator Brungardt. Amended motion carried. (Attachment 2)

Thomas Witt, Executive Director, Kansas Equality Coalition, proposed a balloon amendment. He opposes the Secretary of State's amendment. The balloon amendment would provide a statutory means for physicians to certify gender transition at an earlier point in the transition process, thereby allowing birth records to be reconciled with current state-issued identification. Motion by Senator Kultala, seconded by Senator Reitz. (Attachment 3)

The Committee amended the bill to show that if evidence of citizenship is deemed to be unsatisfactory due to an inconsistency between the document submitted and the name and/or sex provided on the application for registration, allow an applicant for registration to submit an affidavit stating the reason for the inconsistency and swearing the applicant is the same individual as proposed by the Secretary of State. (Attachment 3) Substitute motion to amend the bill with the Secretary of State's version by Senator Apple, seconded by Senator Petersen. Motion carried. (Attachment 4)

The Committee amended the bill to provide that proof of citizenship requirements would not become effective until January 1, 2013. Motion by Senator Kultala, seconded by Senator Faust-Goudeau. Motion carried. (Attachment 5)

Senator Schmidt moved, seconded by Senator Brungardt, the bill be passed favorably as amended. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2080 - Changing the candidate filing deadline for extension districts**. Staff explained that **HB 2080** would make the filing deadlines more uniform, allowing ballots to be printed in a more timely manner.

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Elections and Legislative Matters, testified as a proponent. This bill would increase voter turn out and have a modest cost saving effect. (Attachment 6)

Representative Steve Huebert, Kansas House of Representatives, testified as a proponent. This bill would

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:35 a.m. on , 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

save money for state and local governments and voter turn-out would increase. ([Attachment 7](#))

Don Moler, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities, testified as an opponent. Moving the city elections to coincide with partisan primaries and general elections would be inappropriate. ([Attachment 8](#))

John Bradford, Republican Party Chairman, Leavenworth County, testified as an opponent. The ballot size would be too confusing for voters and the cost to the city or state would increase. ([Attachment 9](#))

Joanne Long, Bourbon County Clerk, testified as an opponent. The ballot would be too long for the time allowed in the voting booth. ([Attachment 10](#))

Stuart Little, representing Shawnee Mission School District, testified as an opponent. The school district felt that the important decisions regarding the district would be lost in the shuffle of all of the candidates on the ballot. ([Attachment 11](#))

Donald Pyle, Crawford County Clerk and Election Officer, testified as an opponent. He felt that **SB 2080** would cause elections to be very confusing and difficult to manage for election officials. ([Attachment 12](#))

Darci Meese, Government Affairs coordinator, Water District #1 Johnson County, an opponent, provided written testimony only. ([Attachment 13](#))

Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk, an opponent, provided written testimony only. ([Attachment 14](#))

Laura McConwell, Mayor, City of Mission, Kansas, an opponent, provided written testimony only. ([Attachment 15](#))

Jim Edwards, Assistant Executive Director of Operations, Kansas Association of Schools, an opponent, provided written testimony only. ([Attachment 16](#))

Bruce Newby, Wyandotte County Clerk, Kansas Association of Schools, an opponent, provided written testimony only. ([Attachment 17](#))

Due to time constraints, the hearing was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled after the adjournment of the Senate on March 13, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.