

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Vicki Schmidt at 9:30 AM. on February 16, 2012, 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
Laura Jurgensen, Kansas Legislation Research Department
Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Thomas Witt, Executive Director, Kansas Equality Coalition
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Secretary of State's office

The Vice-Chairman reopened the hearing on **SB 388 – Elections; relating to the education of election workers.**

Thomas Witt, Executive Director, Kansas Equality Coalition, testified in support of **SB 388**. His position was that the Secretary of State's budget for education voters was insufficient. Recent revisions to Kansas election laws and rules and regulations governing voter registration have increased the complexity of the registration process. (Attachment 1)

Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk, provided written testimony only in opposition to **SB 388**. (Attachment 2)

Maren Turner, State Director, AARP Kansas, an opponent to **SB 388**, provided written testimony only. (Attachment 3) Ms. Turner provided testimony for **SB 388** and **SB 389** in the same document.

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Secretary of State's office, testified as neutral on **SB 388**. He asked the Committee to consider whether this bill is necessary given the training programs already in place. The scope of the bill is very broad and would require training for many election workers and voter registration officials included in the bill. (Attachment 4)

There being no further discussion, Chairman Huntington closed the hearing.

The Chairman called for final action on **SB 333 – Elections; relating to petitions.** This bill removes the statutory requirement that Kansas petition circulators be Kansas residents. (Attachment 5)

Senator Schmidt moved to further amend by adding specific qualifications to the definitions of petition circulator and sponsors. The individual must be 18 years of age, U.S. citizen, have photo identification.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Ethics and Elections Committee at 9:30 AM. on February 16, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

that meets the requirements of KSA 25-2908, and be a non-felon. Seconded by Senator Kelsey. Motion carried. Senator Reitz asked to be recorded as voting no.

Senator Schmidt moved to incorporate all the changes as a substitute bill for **SB 333**; seconded by Senator Petersen. Motion carried. Senator Reitz asked to be recorded as voting no.

The Chairman advised the Committee that members needed to provide amendments for **SB 388** and **SB 389** to the Mike Heim, and the bills would be introduced in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.