

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jene Vickrey at 3:30 P.M. on February 2, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Steve Huebert- excused  
Representative Virginia Beamer- excused  
Representative Oletha Faust-Goudeau- excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Maureen Stinson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rep. Lee Tafaanelli  
Randy Watson - McLouth Recreation Commission

Others attending:

See attached list.

**Bill Introductions**

Rep. Cook requested a committee bill relating to landlords and the removal of tenant(s) possessions.

Without objection, the request will be accepted as a committee bill.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

**HB 2641      Recreation commissions; authority to purchase real property**

Rep. Lee Tafaanelli testified in support of the bill. He provided no written testimony.

Randy Watson, McLouth Recreation Commission, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 1). He explained that the bill would give authority to Recreation Commissions to purchase real estate for recreational purposes, construct facilities to enhance recreational activities and to pay for these facilities by entering into a lease agreement.

Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by Jean Rush, Superintendent, McLouth Unified Schools (Attachment 2). She explained that due to the current school finance situation, the District is unable to assist with a construction project for the McLouth Recreation Commission. She said all of the funds available for the district are needed for school educational and operational costs.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Governmental Organization and Elections Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 2, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by Jim Schonherr, Mayor, City of McLouth (Attachment 3). He explained that the City of McLouth is not able to financially build a new recreation/community/senior citizen's building due to current indebtedness, i.e., new water tower, upgrading and adding to the sewer system, and street improvements.

Larry Baer, League of Kansas Municipalities, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 4). He testified that a Recreation Commission is an appointed, nonelected body that answers only to the appointing governing body. He explained that a Recreation Commission is neither a stand alone taxing subdivision nor a legal entity but rather, a committee established and appointed by local elected officials for the specific purpose of operating the recreation system and all programs and services as delegated to it by the governing body.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2641**.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Rep. Goico made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2006 meeting. Rep. Stephanie Sharp seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Chairman Vickrey adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2006.