

MINUTES OF THE SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roger Reitz at 9:30 a.m. on March 3, 2009 in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All Committee members were present except:
Senator Carolyn McGinn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Noell Memmott, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mike Kearns, Riley County Commissioner
Leon Hobson, P.E., Director of Public Works, Riley County
Eric Stafford, Associated General Contractors of Kansas

Other attending:
See attached list

The hearing opened on **SB 271 - Counties; certain contracts; bidding threshold increased**. Ken Wilke, revisor, reviewed the bill relating that it would make an exemption on contracts for county expenditures when an emergency is based upon public health, safety and welfare.

Mike Kearns, Board of Riley County Commissioners, spoke in favor of **SB 271 (Attachment 1)**. Leon Hobson, P.E., Director of Public Works, Riley County also spoke in favor of the bill (Attachment 2). They both related an incident of severe flooding at the jail, which would have proved to be an extreme problem in repairing, if they had to let the project for bids. In this instance their insurance covered the damages.

Eric Stafford, Associated General Contractors of Kansas, spoke in opposition to **SB 271 (Attachment 3)**. He questioned why counties need the exemptions referred to in the bill. He thinks their reasoning is vague and open-ended.

The Committee discussed several points and had questions that will be addressed at the next meeting.

The hearing was closed.

SB 257 - Requirements for public improvements by cities outside of city limits. Mike Heim, revisor, reviewed the bill. He suggested striking a portion on page 2 dealing with petitions that has no bearing on the bill.

The bill was discussed.

Ralph Ostmeier moved to move SB 257 out of Committee as amended. Mike Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.