

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE KANSAS 2000 SELECT COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kenny Wilk at 1:30 p.m. on January 19, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Susan Wagle - excused

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
Audrey Nogle, Legislative Research Department
Leah Robinson, Legislative Research Department
Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Janet Mosser, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Annie Kuether
Bill Rich, Professor of Law, Washburn University School of Law
Senator Ben Vidricksen
William Avery, Former Governor, State of Kansas
Carol McDowell, President, Kansas Preservation Alliance, Inc.
Barton Cohen, Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
(written)
M.J. Hodges, M.D. (written)
Nancy Holt, Chair, Executive Committee, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
Jim Hoy, President, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
Dave Webb, Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
Cheryl Collins, Past President, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
Ramon Powers, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society
William Tsutsui, Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
Joe Snell, Past Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society
Dick Troop, Member, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
Paul Stuewe, Member, Executive Committee, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
Kathleen Holt, Executive Committee, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
Betty Lu Duncan, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairperson Wilk opened the hearing on **HB 2605 - Kansas department of history and preservation created, transferring powers, duties and functions from state historical society**. He noted that there were 17 conferees on the agenda, many of whom have traveled hundreds of miles to attend the hearing. It is his intention to hear from all conferees.

Chairperson Wilk recognized Representative Annie Kuether, proponent, to address the committee (Attachment 1).

Bill Rich, Professor of Law, Washburn University School of Law, neutral, was recognized and addressed constitutional issues that might affect legislative consideration of the proposed changes (Attachment 2).

Senator Ben Vidricksen, proponent, was recognized (Attachment 3).

William Avery, Former Governor, State of Kansas, proponent, was recognized (Attachment 4).

Carol McDowell, President, Kansas Preservation Alliance, Inc., proponent, was recognized. Because she did not travel a great distance to attend the hearing as did many others, she offered to testify out of order. Chairperson Wilk expressed his appreciation for her yielding to others.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Chairperson Wilk noted that Barton Cohen, Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., proponent, has submitted written testimony ([Attachment 5](#)).

Chairperson Wilk noted that M.J. Hodges, M.D., proponent, has also submitted written testimony ([Attachment 6](#)).

Nancy Holt, Chair, Executive Committee, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., opponent, was recognized to address the committee ([Attachment 7](#)). She also provided the committee with a packet of information that members may not have had before including Board policies ([Attachment 8](#)), restated and amended bylaws of the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc. ([Attachment 9](#)), details of the six divisions of the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc. ([Attachment 10](#)), and information on the joint projects of the Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc. ([Attachment 11](#)).

Jim Hoy, President, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., opponent, was recognized to address the committee ([Attachment 12](#)).

Dave Webb, Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., opponent, was recognized and echoed what had been said by Nancy Holt and Jim Hoy. Mr. Webb works with the Kansas Heritage Center in Dodge City which has a very close working relationship with the Kansas State Historical Society. He is frightened that a name with 125 years of recognition, respect and integrity would be changed. He noted that surrounding states call their society the blank (ie, insert name of state) State Historical Society. He also noted that changes have been made as a result of the Audit and asked that a period of time be allowed to evaluate how the changes are working and, if necessary, come back to re-examine this issue. He parted by saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Cheryl Collins, Past President, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., opponent, was recognized to address the committee ([Attachment 13](#)).

Ramon Powers, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society, opponent, was recognized to address the committee. Due to the lateness of the hour and the fact that many other conferees remained to testify, Dr. Powers summarized his testimony ([Attachment 14](#)). Chairperson Wilk asked Dr. Powers to return tomorrow, if possible, in order to go into more depth on his testimony.

William Tsutsui, Board of Directors, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., opponent, was recognized to address the committee ([Attachment 15](#)).

Chairperson Wilk requested that, in an effort to hear testimony from conferees who cannot return tomorrow, when a name is called and the conferee can return tomorrow, they please yield to those who cannot.

Joe Snell, Past Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society, opponent, was recognized and yielded to his written testimony ([Attachment 16](#)). Chairperson Wilk requested that, if possible, he remain after the meeting since some members of the committee will stay late and would like to hear from him.

Dick Troop, Member, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., opponent, was recognized to address the committee. Mr. Troop is a volunteer at the Kansas Museum of History and as a volunteer, thinks it would be a mistake to change the name of the Kansas State Historical Society. It would become just another department of the state and "department" has a negative connotation. He felt "society" had a nice "ring" to it.

Paul Stuewe, Member, Executive Committee, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., opponent, was recognized to address the committee ([Attachment 17](#)).

Kathleen Holt, Executive Committee, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., neutral, was recognized to address the committee. She explained that her charge was to summarize the comments of her colleagues from the Executive Committee and referred the committee to the position paper provided ([Attachment 18](#)). Upon questioning by Chairperson Wilk as to what, in her opinion, the legislature might do to make everyone support this bill, Ms. Holt said that a clearer elaboration on the trustee relationship would be helpful.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Betty Lu Duncan, Vice-Chair, Executive Committee, Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., neutral, was recognized and at the request of Chairperson Wilk due to the lateness of the hour, agreed to return tomorrow and address the committee.

Questions and discussion followed testimony. Jim Wilson, Revisor, was recognized and assisted in answering questions.

Chairperson Wilk recessed the hearing on **HB 2605**.

Chairperson Wilk adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2000.