

Approved: 3-29-06  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on March 1, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Reitz - excused  
Senator Vratil - excused

Committee staff present:

Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Connie Burns, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Kelly  
Marc Galbraith, State Library  
Joe McKenzie, Salina Public Library  
Rosanne Siemens, Kansas Library Association  
Whitney Damron, City of Topeka  
John Dowell, Topeka City Attorney  
Mayor Bill Buntun, Topeka  
Neil Dobler, City of Topeka  
Christy Caldwell, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Senator Kelly appeared before the committee to request a bill introduction concerning office-based surgeries and providing for the inspection of these offices and when special procedures are performed.

Senator Hensley made the motion the request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Whitney Damron appeared before the committee to request legislation that would repeal KSA 12-350-359, concerning the consolidation of Topeka and Shawnee County. (Attachment 1)

Senator Brownlee made the motion the request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator O'Connor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**SB 549 – State library of Kansas board created; state library and advisory commission and Kansas library network board abolished.**

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **SB 549**.

Marc Galbraith, Deputy State Librarian, spoke on behalf of Christie Brandau, State Librarian, in support of the bill. (Attachment 2) The bill reduces the number of library policy boards from two to one and establishes that there is just one board charged with this function in state government, and represents more effective and efficient library board.

Joe McKenzie, Library Director, Salina Public Library, appeared in support of the bill. (Attachment 3) The new configuration of the Board has the blessing of librarians and helps reduce confusion of role, reduces bureaucracy and meetings, promotes cooperation and sharing, increases clarity and brings things together under the strong umbrella of the State Library of Kansas.

Rosanne Siemens, Executive Director, Kansas Library Association, spoke in support of the bill. (Attachment 4) The bill combines the two boards to establish one new and more effective board. This idea was well received by the library community of Kansas, also the 1,600 members of the Kansas Library Association support the bill.

Several questions were brought up on the size of the board, who makes up the board, grants and expenses associated with the new board and will be presented to the committee members prior to being worked next week.

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **SB 549**.

**SB 575 – Topeka/Shawnee county riverfront authority act.**

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **SB 575**.

Whitney Damron, representing the City of Topeka, appeared in support of the bill. (Attachment 5) Attached to the testimony is a suggested amendment on page 3, Sec. 8, line 2 that will clarify the Topeka/Shawnee County Riverfront Authority is authorized to seek and accept grants from any public subdivision or private interest.

John Dowell, Assistant City Attorney, spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 6) The bill creates a Riverfront to utilize the Kansas River to enhance the quality of life and spur economic development around downtown Topeka and be created by enabling legislation a “riverfront development authority”.

Mayor Bill Bunten, Topeka, appeared in support of the bill. (Attachment 7) The bill would create a Riverfront Authority whose authority would develop a plan for the area that would be submitted to the citizens of our city for either adoption or rejection.

Neil Dobler, Acting City Manager of Topeka, appeared as a proponent of the bill. (Attachment 8) The bill would provide the creation of a separate riverfront authority, with the ability to seek funding and develop a real plan over the next three years that would be placed in front of the voters of Topeka and Shawnee County for a decision on the future of the project.

Christy Caldwell, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 9) The Riverfront authority is charged with developing a master plan for river development that with approval of the citizenry can be the blueprint for Kansas River development in Topeka/Shawnee County.

The committee had some drafting questions for the revisor.

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **SB 575**.

**SCR 1623 – A concurrent resolution concerning funeral picketing.**

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **SCR 1623**.

Senator Brownlee spoke in favor of the concurrent resolution and that the people who did the funeral picketing did not represent the state of Kansas.

Senator Hensley moved that the word “Christian” be changed to religious. Senator Ostmeyer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Ostmeyer moved the SCR 1623 as amended be passed favorably. Senator Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **SCR 1623**.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am. The next scheduled meeting is March 7, 2006.