

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 January 29, 2008 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Julia Lynn- excused

Committee staff present:
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Joan Wagnon, Secretary of Revenue
Representative Tim Owens
Allyn Lockner
Randall Allen, Kansas Association of Counties
Don Moler, League of Kansas Municipalities
Terry Holdren, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending:
See attached list.

Senator Wysong requested a bill introduction regarding the termination or modification of franchise agreements between liquor suppliers and liquor distributors.

Senator Vratil moved that this request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SB 454- Municipalities; consolidation and reorganization; political and taxing subdivision

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **SB 454**.

Joan Wagnon, Chairperson of Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR) and Secretary of Revenue, appeared in favor of the bill. (Attachment 1) This bill supports the need to allow local government to consolidate or reorganize in order to be more efficient and effective in serving its citizens.

Representative Tim Owens spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 2) The bill would allow for local units of government to have more latitude in considering and implementing at their discretion, how to make their governments more efficient whether that included consolidation internally or externally with other governments. Also provided was the KACIR 2007 Annual Report.

Allyn Lockner appeared in favor of the bill. (Attachment 3) The bill allows residents in local regional communities throughout Kansas more freedom to choose whether to undertake consolidation and to choose the type of consolidation.

Randall Allen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Counties, spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 4) The premise of the bill is affirmative because it gives local communities an opportunity to devise a system of local government which best meets their needs without seeking legislative approval, and allows to move forward to provide the most efficient and effective local government possible for their citizens. Mr. Allen did recommend to amend the bill in striking New Section 7, and this would not effect the bill and is unnecessary.

Don Moler, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities, spoke in support of the bill. (Attachment 5) The bill would allow cities and counties, and their residents, to determine their own local government organizations and will allow them to maximize efficiencies in government as well as modernizing

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governmental structures in Kansas.

Jack Rowlett, Jr. provided written testimony in support of the bill. ([Attachment 6](#))

Terry Holdren, representing Kansas Farm Bureau, appeared as an opponent on the bill. ([Attachment 7](#)) The bill presented would allow any unit of government with a larger population base to override another unit of government within a proposed consolidation limiting the smaller populations' right to effective representation in the decision making process, and remain opposed to these attempts. Kansas Farm Bureau requests that the bill be not forwarded in its current form, but asked the committee to consider the amendments provided.

Greg Dye spoke against the bill. ([Attachment 8](#)) Mr. Dye stated that the U.S. Constitution has not been amended to allow giving the cities the power to bypass statutes that do not blanket the states; this power is for state law makers.

Marvin E. Smith appeared as an opponent on the bill. ([Attachment 9](#)) Mr. Smith felt that the rural area of his county, are served by their townships with efficient services; and also provided suggested changes to percentages on the voting majority.

W. Paul Degener provided written testimony in opposition to the bill. ([Attachment 10](#))

Nancy Weeks, Kansas County Officials Association, provided written testimony with concerns on the bill. ([Attachment 11](#))

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **SB 454**.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am. The next scheduled meeting is January 30, 2008.