

Approved: 2/13/96
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, CONGRESSIONAL & LEGISLATIVE
APPORTIONMENT AND GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Janice Hardenburger at 1:40 p.m. on February 8, 1996 in Room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Sen. Sallee, excused
Sen. Wisdom, excused

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Bonnie Fritts, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Brad Bryant, Office of Secretary of State
Sandy Praeger, State Senator, 2nd District
Edward Rowe, League of Women Voters of Kansas
Wendy McFarland, American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas
Kandy Shortle, Kansas Dept. of Social and Rehab. Services
Marilyn Chapman, Sedgwick Co. Election Commissioner
Betty McBride, Director, Division of Vehicles

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Hardenburger asked for bill introductions.

Senator Praeger introduced a bill designed to change the primary voting day from the first Tuesday in August to the last Tuesday in August due to poor voter turnout in many parts of the state.

Senator Bond moved to introduce the bill. Senator Brady seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Brad Bryant, represented the Office of Secretary of State requesting introduction of a bill related to advanced voting allowing easier processing of mailed advance ballots.

Senator Parkinson moved to introduce the bill. Senator Brady seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sub HB 2079 **relating to elections** (National Voter Registration Act)

Edward Rowe appeared as a proponent of the bill and presented written testimony stating the League's position on voting rights (Attachment 1) along with voter pool statistics from the Census Bureau (Attachment 2).

Wendy McFarland, representing the ACLU, addressed the committee as a proponent of the bill and presented written testimony asking for passage of the bill to lessen the confusion of the current dual registration requirements and to make registration "voter friendly" (Attachment 3).

Kandy Shortle, of SRS, testified before the committee as a proponent, stating that this agency fully supports this bill. She offered written testimony containing cost and effect information and fiscal impact on SRS (Attachment 4). She stated that this bill would be especially helpful in allowing registration cards to be mailed out to assist recipients who change address; this is prohibited under current law by County Election Office.

Marilyn Chapman, also spoke as a proponent of the bill and briefed the committee on some of the problems that have occurred in the past in regards to voter registration cards not being filled correctly or completely and the difficulty in verifying information contained on that card. She said her county has received approximately one thousand new registrations each month since they began implementation and that only a small percentage of them can actually go to the polls.

Senator Hardenburger suggested that maybe a central processing agency be started up to handle the massive amount of registrant clarification and purging to ease the burden for the local voting offices.

Betty McBride appeared in support of the bill and described the process which the Division of Vehicles implemented to be in full compliance with the NVRA. She explained that the implementation of this act was done with minimal cost to the department and that if this process is required to be done electronically, there would be a need for additional funding as the department has neither the finances nor the needed resources available at this time (Attachment 5). The largest expenditure incurred to date by the division was for the printing of application and change of address cards. She also stated that 12% of the people that applied for new drivers licenses each month also registered to vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 1996.

**SENATE ELECTIONS, CONGRESSIONAL &
LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT AND
GOVERNMENTAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE GUEST
LIST**

DATE: 2/8/96

NAME	REPRESENTING
John W Smith	KDOT DMV
Betty McBride	KDOT DMV
Marilyn Chapman	Sedgwick County
Bonnie Stewart	KS AFL-CIO
Edward Rowe	League of Women Voters of KS
Lenny Dawson	Sen. Wisdom
Jimmy Wartz	Sec of State
Brad Bryant	Sec. of state
Amy Traeger	Senate Majority Leader
Amanda E. Esping	Sr. Intern for Senator Herb Kohlberg
Tim Voth	K.A.P.S.
Kandy Shortz	SRS
Dwight Fenton	FARMLAND INDUSTRIES
Kamya Manesh	FARMLAND IND. Inc.

LWVK LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS

February 6, 1996

Senate Committee on Elections, Congressional and Legislative Apportionment
and Governmental Standards

Senator Janice Hardenburger, Chair

Madam Chairman and members of the committee, I'm Edward Rowe, a volunteer member of the state lobby corps of the League of Women Voters of Kansas. The League is a grassroots, nonpartisan political organization. We actively promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Throughout its history, the League of Women Voters has consistently campaigned to lower registration barriers and increase voter participation. League thanks the Kansas legislature for passing a Kansas "motor voter" law in 1992 and we thank this committee for the close attention being given to HB 2079, which is designed to bring our state into full compliance with federal election law.

The League position on voting rights, briefly stated, is to "protect the right of every citizen to vote" and to "encourage all citizens to vote." This position grows naturally out of League's own historical fight for the vote. Consistent with our position of regarding the right to vote as our most fundamental right, the national League lobby corps worked hard to get Congress to pass the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

Though in our lifetime this country has gone far toward removing major barriers to registration and voting, there are still impediments which keep our people from realizing the goal of "maximum participation in the political process." Our population is very mobile and every time a citizen moves he or she has been likely to encounter a new, and oftentimes confusing, array of state and local registration practices. In addition to those whose jobs require them to move frequently, handicapped persons, persons working night jobs or more than one job, and those whose jobs keep them on the road for long periods are examples of those who find it difficult to stay registered under the old rules.

Young, first-time voters are particularly likely to run into problems with the old registration rules. I haven't moved in more than twenty years and I always vote, so I have no trouble staying registered, but many of my neighbors are young working people or college students, unfamiliar with registration rules and at a stage in their lives when they are moving frequently. I've recently started to work on election boards and it quickly became obvious to me that we are putting roadblocks in the way of these young people, people we very much want to become involved in the political process. Many of them move three times a year. Sometimes their move is only a block or two away, but if it is across a precinct line, they become ineligible under our current rules.

The National Voter Registration Act attempts to remove remaining barriers to participation in the political process. The League favors this legislation, which we predict will increase voter registration and voter participation. We urge the Kansas Legislature to bring Kansas law into full compliance with the national law. I am here to urge you to report out HB 2079 favorably and to let the Secretary of State and the county election officers go to work and get the job done.

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today.

SENATE ELECTIONS
2-8-96
ATTACHMENT 1

2/1/94

Senator _____:

In the hearing on SB 489 in the Elections Committee, you asked what percentage of the eligible voter pool is now registered in Kansas.

I didn't know this at the time, but the U.S. Census Bureau asks the same question at each national election. They do a mail-out poll and the questions are basically - - -

- 1) Are you over 18?
- 2) Are you a citizen?
- 3) Are you registered to vote?
- 4) Did you vote in the last election?

The Census Bureau data for 1992 are given on the next page.

The Bureau itself points out that people have a tendency to exaggerate their civic virtue. When you do the math on their sample, 9% more people said they voted in 1992 than actually voted. Thus, it's misleading to have list the data out to tenths of a percentage, except for purposes of ranking the states.

On the basis of the Census Bureau data, Kansas ranked about 5th for per cent voting and about 9th for per cent registered in 1992.

E. C. Rowe

Edward C. Rowe
Member of League Lobby Corps

2/8/96

I looked again at the Census Bureau data on voter participation in the 1992 election and here are the nationwide figures:

Registered	68% of the citizens over 18
Voted	61% of the citizens over 18
Of 18 to 24-year-olds	43% voted
Of persons over 65	70% voted

Persons with more education are more likely to vote.

Whites are more likely to vote than blacks, who are more likely to vote than hispanics.

What about the armed forces [which have a Voters Rights Representative in every unit]? Voting percentages are lower than in the general population.

SENATE ELECTIONS
2-8-96
ATTACHMENT 2

U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, CURRENT POPULATION
 REPORTS, P20-466, VOTING AND REGISTRATION IN
 THE ELECTION OF 1992. U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING
 OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D.C., 1993

State	% Voting	State	% Registered
WI	75.3	ND	90.8
MN	74.2	MN	86.1
ME	74.1	ME	85.4
UT	72.3	WI	84.4
KS	71.9	SD	80.1
CT	71.7	MS	79.3
MT	71.4	UT	78.8
ND	71.1	IO	77.9
IO	70.8	MT	77.3
SD	70.2	AL	77.1
OR	69.1	KS	77.1
RI	69	LA	77
CO	68.8	CT	76.8
LA	68.6	VT	76.1
VT	68.6	AK	75.1
OK	67.5	CO	74.7
ID	66.9	OR	74.7
MS	66.7	MI	74.6
AK	66.6	OK	74.3
MD	66.4	MO	74.2
MO	66.2	RI	74
DC	66.1	DC	73.9
DE	66.1	NE	73.1
NE	66.1	MA	72.5
MI	65.9	IL	72.1
MA	65.8	ID	71.8
IL	65.1	MD	71.7
AZ	64.7	DE	70.7
NH	64.6	AZ	70.5
OH	64.3	NH	69.9
WY	64.2	OH	69.6
AL	63.6	NC	68.7
IN	63	WY	68.1
NM	62.6	IN	68
NJ	61.2	NJ	68
VA	61.2	NM	67.1
NC	60	SC	67
PA	59.9	AR	66.5
NV	58.1	VA	65.4
AR	58	PA	65.1
SC	58	TN	65
KY	57.6	KY	64.9
WV	57.3	TX	64.9
NY	56.8	WV	64.9
FL	55.8	NV	63.4
TN	55.6	FL	62.7
TX	55.6	GE	62
HI	55.2	NY	62
GE	54.1	HI	60.6
CA	52.8	CA	57.6

American Civil Liberties Union
of Kansas and Western Missouri
706 West 42nd Street, Suite 108
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
(816) 756-3113

Wendy McFarland, Lobbyist
575-5749

TESTIMONY ON HB 2079 PRESENTED FEBRUARY 6, 1996

GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS WENDY MCFARLAND AND I REPRESENT THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF KANSAS AND WESTERN MISSOURI. MY REMARKS WILL BE VERY BRIEF TODAY.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK SECRETARY OF STATE RON THORNBURGH FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THIS BILL. ITS PASSAGE WILL MAKE KANSAS ELECTION LAW VOTER FRIENDLY. WITHOUT IT STATE ELECTION LAWS REMAIN IN PLACE THAT WILL CAUSE SIGNIFICANT VOTER CONFUSION BY REQUIRING VOTERS TO REGISTER TWICE - ONCE FOR FEDERAL ELECTIONS AND ONCE FOR STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS.

THE RESULTING CONFUSION FOR VOTERS AS WELL AS REGISTRARS AND ELECTION OFFICERS WILL BE VERY APPARENT WHEN KANSANS WILL BE ATTEMPTING TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS FOR PRESIDENT, CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS THIS NOVEMBER.

NO ONE WHO WISHES TO VOTE SHOULD EVER BE TURNED AWAY SIMPLY BECAUSE OF A CONFUSING DUEL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT THAT THEY WERE UNAWARE OF.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO AVOID THIS CONFUSION. WE URGE YOU TO SEE THE BENEFITS THIS BILL WILL PROVIDE TO THE VOTERS OF KANSAS BY MAKING THE RIGHT TO VOTE AN EASY RIGHT TO OBTAIN.

THANK YOU.

SENATE ELECTIONS
2-8-96
ATTACHMENT 3

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES
Rochelle Chronister, Secretary

**Senate Committee on Elections, Congressional & Legislative Apportionment
and Governmental Standards**

Testimony on Substitute House Bill 2079

February 8, 1996

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee, I am Kandy Shortle of Income Maintenance and Employment Preparation Services. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee to testify in support of Substitute House Bill 2079. This bill will provide the basis for implementing the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) in Kansas. As a public assistance agency, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services is a stake holder in the successful implementation and ongoing administration of NVRA.

The Act contains provisions intended to make it easier for individuals to register to vote in elections for Federal office. Responsibilities required of public assistance agencies in carrying out these initiatives are: distributing voter registration forms, providing assistance in completing the forms and accepting completed forms for transmittal to the proper election offices for processing. These services, according to the act, must be offered at each application for assistance, and with completion of each recertification, renewal or change of address form relating to such assistance. House Bill 2079 addresses all of these aspects of the Act.

During the past year SRS worked in conjunction with the Secretary of State's office and county election offices throughout the state, to implement, effective January 1, 1995 an interim agency based voter registration plan in Kansas. This interim plan was accomplished within the confines of the current statutes and has already demonstrated success. People are applying to register to vote at public assistance agencies.

Under current Kansas law SRS cannot move ahead with full implementation of NVRA particularly in regard to offering voter registration services through the mail and to assist recipients who change addresses. Substitute House Bill 2079 will provide SRS with that opportunity. The agency anticipates a first year fiscal note of \$48,600 to implement these outstanding provisions. This legislation will enable the department to continue its development and implementation of customer responsible, cost effective and Kansas oriented strategies which address the role of the public assistance agency in voter registration.

SENATE ELECTIONS
2-8-96
ATTACHMENT 4

Ms. Rochelle Chronister, Secretary
Social and Rehabilitation Services
Docking State Office Building, 6 Fl.-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Secretary Chronister:

This is to respond to your request for a fiscal note on House Bill No. 2079.

Brief Analysis

House Bill No. 2079, National Voter Registration Act, is also known as the motor-voter bill. This would become effective upon publication in the Kansas Statutes.

Effect On Operations

IM/EPS would be effected by this bill through increased costs to Other Operational Expenditure (OOE) for its programs. Increases will occur in the cost of mailing registration forms to all assistance households, printing of forms, compiling of materials to be mailed as well as instructions and necessary computer programming time.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated cost of House Bill No. 2079 is \$48,634 for FY 97. Estimate SGF cost is \$25,289 for FY 97.

Sincerely,



Connie Hubbell
Commissioner of Income Maintenance and
Employment Preparation Services

CH/pc

Betty McBride, Director of Vehicles
Kansas Department of Revenue
915 SW Harrison St.
Topeka, KS 66626-0001



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FAX (913) 296-3852
Hearing Impaired TTY (913) 296-3909

Division of Vehicles

TO: Senator Janice Hardenburger, Chairperson,
Elections and Governmental Standards Committee

FROM: Betty McBride Director,
Division of Vehicles

RE: Sub. House Bill 2079

DATE: February 8, 1996

Madam Chair, members of the committee, I am Betty McBride, Director of the Division of Vehicles. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of the Kansas Department of Revenue, with regard to Sub. House Bill 2079.

The Division of Vehicles understands the mandate that has been imposed upon the State of Kansas, to comply with all the provisions of the National Motor Voter Act and affirm our support in making Motor Voter a successful project in Kansas.

The Division began accepting voter registrations in all Driver License offices throughout the state, on July 1, 1994. This is a manual process which has worked exceptionally well, and has brought the Division of Vehicles into full compliance with National Voter Registration Act requirements. Implementation of this act was done with minimal cost to the department. The largest expenditure incurred by the division was \$9,000.00, for the printing of application and change of address cards. Training of Field Examiners and County Treasurers was done in conjunction with other office training; therefore, no training costs were incurred. No additional FTE's were required.

Should the decision be made to require that Motor Voter applications be processed electronically at the Driver License offices, and the data obtained transmitted directly to the counties, major financial expenditures would be required within the department. Funding would be needed for additional IS resources to do necessary programming, and additional Field Examiners would be required in high volume stations, to process the additional information required that is not collected at this time.

A provision in the bill now being considered by your committee would mandate that the Division of Vehicles be responsible for any expenses incurred to implement this requirement. This raises issues regarding the department's ability to meet this requirement, as the department has neither the finances, nor the needed resources available at this time.

Therefore, Madam Chair, and members of the committee, we ask that if this committee recommends passage of the bill before you, that consideration be given to amending the language of the bill which would incorporate the allocation of funds and resources to the department with which to comply with its requirements.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear today. I would stand for any questions at this time.

SENATE ELECTIONS
2-8-96
ATTACHMENT 5