

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1:30 p.m. on January 30, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Gooch - excused
Senator Gilstrap - excused

Committee staff present: Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes
Mike Heim, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Schodorf
Jim Bloom, Editor and Publisher; Hutchinson News
Will Kennedy, Executive Dir.; Topeka Capital Journal
Richard Brack, Managing Editor, Lawrence Journal World
Harriet Lang, President & Executive, Kansas Association of
Broadcasters
Don Moler, League of Municipalities
Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards

Others attending: see attached list

Introduction of bills

Chairperson Allen brought the committee's attention to a letter from City of Hutchinson requesting legislation to amend KSA12-6a01. This would allow the total cost of any improvement to be paid by one entity in spite of the fact that property within the benefit district normally would be liable and assessed, for the cost of the improvement. Senator Huelskamp made a motion to introduce a bill to amend KSA 12-6a01, seconded by Senator Jackson, and the motion carried. (Attachment 1)

Senator Hueslkamp made a request for a bill regarding townships to donate land for cemetery purposes to the county. Senator Huelskamp made a motion to introduce the legislation, seconded by Senator O'Connor, and the motion carried (Attachment 2).

Chairperson informed the committee the deadline for requesting a committee bill would be February 5, 2003.

Hearing on SB 76 - concerning public meetings

Chairperson Allen opened the hearing on **SB 76**, and recognized Mike Heim, Legislative Research, to give a brief overview of the open meetings act to the committee. The Chair requested Mike to furnish the committee with an explanation of the Open Meetings Act.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT at on January 30, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

Senator Schodorf presented testimony in support of **SB 76**. Senator Schodorf stated this legislation would guarantee any transition task forces or advisory boards would be open to the people (Attachment 3).

Jim Bloom, a proponent of **SB 76**, supported the bill with his testimony to the committee (Attachment 4).

Testimony in support of **SB 76** was given by Will Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy believes open meetings bring in more people, consequently more ideas and more discussion of those ideas (Attachment 5).

Richard Brack spoke in support of **SB 76**. Richard stated he is in favor of the bill because, as a newspaper editor, he believe in the public's right to know what business their elected officials are conducting (Attachment 6).

Harriet Lang appeared before the committee in support of **SB 76**. Ms Lang's testimony reflects the bill is a huge step in the right direction for open government, however would like to see amendments added (Attachment 7).

Jim Edwards, Governmental Relations Specialist, appeared on behalf of the Kansas Association of School Boards, neutral on **SB 76**. The testimony he presented had several items KASB felt needed to be addressed before passing this legislation (Attachment 8).

Don Moler, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities, spoke in opposition of **SB 76**. The League is opposing Section 4, but believe that Section 3, 4, and 5 are unnecessary and unwarranted (Attachment 9).

Chairperson Allen ask Senator Schodorf to meet with the conferees that had questions and see if some of these issues could be resolved.

There being no others to testify on **SB 76**, the hearing was closed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2003