

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Allen at 1:30 p.m. on February 12, 2004 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Legislative Research

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research

Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes

Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Mike Donnelly, Director of Policies, Communications and Outreach, Kansas Advocacy & Protection Services

Troy Findley, House Legislative Liaison, Governmental Affairs Office

Kerrie Bacon, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns; Kansas Department of Human Resources

Shannon Jones, Executive Director, Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas,

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Hearing on:

SB 479 - elections; changes to comply with the help America vote act

Chairperson Allen opened the hearing on **SB 479**. The Chair stated **SB 479** covers issues that the committee heard in prior hearings. The HAVA bill **HB 2288** passed last session, which the Governor vetoed. The Governor's concerns were identification of voters at the voting place. The Governor's office and Secretary of State have met and come to an agreement on **SB 479**.

Ron Thornburgh, Secretary of State, welcomed to the committee by the Chair, testified in support of **SB 479**. The Secretary explained the handout regarding the federal funding of HAVA ([Attachment 1](#)). Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State spoke as a proponent of **SB 479** reviewing the nine HAVA-related concepts ([Attachment 2](#)).

Chairperson Allen recognized Mike Donnelly to the committee. Mr. Donnelly testified in support of **SB 479** with an amendment ([Attachment 3](#)). The Chair asked Mr. Donnelly to meet with the Secretary of State with his concerns.

Troy Findley, Legislative Liaison for Governor Sebelius, testified the language regarding voter identification in **SB 479**, which would require all first time voters to show identification in the process, strikes an appropriate balance, and is language the Governor will endorse ([Attachment 4](#)).

Kerrie Bacon, Legislative Liaison, testified in support of **SB 479** on behalf of Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns and the Kansas Department of Human Resources. Ms. Bacon's testimony asked for two changes to the current law to make voting accessible to every citizen ([Attachment 5](#)).

Written testimony from Shannon Jones, Executive Director (SILCK) in support of **SB 479** was submitted by Jose Torrez ([Attachment 6](#)).

There being no others to testify on SB 479, the Chair closed the hearing.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE at 1:30 p.m. on February 12, 2004 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

The committee received the follow-up information concerning **SB 328** and local ordinances, which require landlord liability for utility bills (Attachment 7). The Chair had requested this information from Kim Gulley, League of Municipalities after committee questions at the February 10 hearing on **SB 328**.

The Chair informed the committee it would be taking action on **SB 376** - campaign finance; use of unexpended campaign funds, next Tuesday, February 17.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.