

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 February 15, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes Office
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jennifer Crow, SRS
Chris Tymeson, Dept of Wildlife & Parks
Dale Goter, City of Wichita
George Kolb, City Manager of Wichita
Bob Myers, Newton City Attorney
Mark Tomb, League of Kansas Municipalities
Kathleen Taylor Olsen, Kansas Bankers Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Senator Barnett requested a bill introduction that concerns the duty of the Commission of Veterans' Affairs..

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

Jennifer Crow, Social and Rehabilitation Services, requested a bill introduction that is related to alcohol and drug abuse treatment. (Attachment 1)

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

Chris Tymason, Department of Wildlife and Parks, requested a bill introduction that concerns National Parks where state and federal government both have jurisdiction. (Attachment 2)

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

SB 319 - Counties; foreclosure and sale of real estate

Staff provided an overview of the bill.

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **SB 319**.

Dale Goter, Government Relations Manager, City of Wichita, provided the committee with a short video showing the surrounding area and homes in the Wichita area with blight. An amended bill was provided reflecting on page 1 line 14 inserting "unoccupied, residential" after any, on page 2 and 3 replacing and or with and/or (Attachment 3)

George Kolb, City Manager of Wichita, spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 4) The bill address foreclosure changes to address residential blight. In its continuing effort to alleviate residential blight the City of Wichita identifies three goals:

1. Shorten the foreclosure time on abandoned delinquent property from three years to one year
2. Encourage non-profit or public entities to intervene and stabilize delinquent property, ultimately making it available for low and moderate income housing. The bill would protect their investment, adding those improvement costs to the delinquent taxes as the cost of redemption

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee at 10:30 a.m. on February 15, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

3. Provide adequate notice to the delinquent property owner

Bob Myers, New city Attorney, appeared as a proponent of the bill. (Attachment 5) The bill addresses only those blighted properties which are in the process of being foreclosed by the county through a tax foreclosure proceeding and provide an option by which property repairs can be made during the tax foreclosure process so that the more serious types of blighting conditions can be eliminated and neighboring property owners can obtain some relief.

Mark Tomb, League of Kansas Municipalities, spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 6) The bill outlines a fair and equitable process for dealing with tax delinquent, abandoned, and blighted properties in a time conscious manner and for these reasons the League supports the bill.

Kathleen Taylor Olsen, Kansas Bankers Association, (KBA) appeared as neutral with an amendment. (Attachment 7) There exists the possibility that a lender may have a lien on that property and in order to perfected, all liens on real estate must be recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds in the county where the property is located. The amendment is in subsection (b) page 1 line 26, and page 2 line 10, inserted after the word real estate "including lienholders of record." With the requested amendment adopted, the KBA would have no objections to the bill.

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **SB 319**.

Final Action:

SB 244 - Funeral picketing; crime charges; libel and slander charges

The Revisor explained the balloon. (Attachment 8) The amendment adds KSA 60-2102 on page 1 and page 3. Adds additional language starting on line 26, page 2, page 3 line 2 KSA 75-702 and insert Section 4 amending KSA 60-2102 and adding new section (d) that deals with appellate jurisdiction of the supreme court.

Attorney General Paul Morrison provided written testimony in support of the amendment. (Attachment 9)

Senator Hensley moved to include the balloon provided by the Revisor. Senator Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Vratil moved to pass SB 244 as amended. Senator Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SB 226 - Cereal malt beverages; discretion regarding suspension or revocation of license

The Revisor explained the amendment. (Attachment 10) The question was asked if the amendment destroys the uniformity of the cereal malt beverage act. This was not the intent of the bill to eliminate the licensing in Section B. In line 20 the word "not" should be stricken.

The Chairman is going to set the bill aside until next week for new language in the appropriate section.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am. The next scheduled meeting is February 20, 2007.