

Approved: March, 19, 2012

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Terrie Huntington at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 in 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Ellen Martinez, Committee Assistant
Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Laura Jurgensen, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State
Donna Shelite, Director of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue
Marge Aherns, President, Topeka and Shawnee County League of Women Voters

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

The Secretary of State asked for a bill introduction that would remove the requirement in Kansas law that prohibits non-citizens from being petition circulators. Senator Kelsey moved, seconded by Senator Brungardt . Motion carried.

The committee heard presentations on **2011 HB 2067 Voter photographic identification requirements**. Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State, provided an extensive overview of the Voter ID Bill. HAVA (Help America Vote Act) funds were used to implement the bill. The first election held since the implementation of the Voter ID Bill was in Cimarron, Kansas. Secretary Kobach indicated that extensive public education was presented before the election, including public service announcements and paid advertisements. The Secretary of State's office concluded that the majority of voters have ID's; only 1 voter in Cimarron did not have an ID, but indicated that this was done as a protest against the bill. The committee members had questions regarding the regulations of the bill going into effect in early February. The committee also felt that the economic statement was not accurate. There were concerns about educating the voters

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS Committee at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, January 25, in 159-S of the Capitol.

about the bill and the availability of free non-driver ID's. (Attachment 1) The Rules and Regulations Committee had several concerns; Secretary Kobach submitted a letter response for the committee. (Attachment 2)

Donna Shelite, Director of Vehicles, Kansas Department of Revenue, spoke to the impact of the Voter ID Bill on her department. The department had free ID's as of January 1, 2012 and the staff received training on the program. They are addressing problems that have arisen for the implementation. There were concerns from the committee regarding the need for birth certificates in order to obtain a free voter ID. (Attachment 3)

Marge Aherns, President of the Topeka and Shawnee County League of Women Voters, spoke on behalf of Ernestine Krehbiel, President of the League of Women Voters of Kansas, about many concerns regarding the implementation of the Voter ID Bill. (Attachment 4)

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 p.m.