

HB 2587, Rep Kyle McNorton, Proponent, Oral
Water District Board being able to hold executive meeting

Chairwoman and members of the committee,

I proposed HB 2587 for one of my constituents, Dave Jackson, who sits on the North Topeka Drainage District. Mr. Jackson is unable to attend the hearing today since he is on vacation.

The change in bill KSA 24-416 will allow water districts to meet in executive session to discuss matters outlined in KSA 75-4319. Doing a simple search through the statutes, there were numerous other boards which have this authority, including Homeowners Associations.

I feel the Water Districts should have the same option as other regulated boards to discuss confidential information outside of public meetings. They had a personnel issue that needed to be addressed and had to openly discuss this in front of the employee and everyone else who was at the meeting.

The bill passed the House with 116 in favor and 4 opposed. The four who opposed it were worried about behind the door dealings with only three person boards. This should not be an issue as they are only authorized to discuss the items clearly defined in 75-4319 and then resume in an open meeting to discuss further or vote.

Thank you for time and consideration,

I will stand for any questions you may have.

Rep Kyle McNorton