

Approved: March 14, 2011
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Goico at 9:00 a.m., on March 9, 2011, in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Robert Montgomery Excused

Committee staff present:

Doug Taylor, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Katherine McBride, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Diane Brian, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
Sherrie Riebel, Allen County Clerk
Don Pyle, Crawford County Clerk

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Vice Chair opened the hearing on **SB 103 – Elections; absentee voting by military and others; federal services absentee ballot.** Katherine McBride, staff revisor, reviewed the bill.

Brad Bryant spoke in support of **SB 103** stating that this bill will enhance voting opportunities and to comply with two federal laws governing the voting process for military and overseas voters. The major provisions of the bill will allow overseas voter to: (Attachment 1)

- Vote a full ballot at all elections
- Apply for, receive and return their ballots by email or other electronic means, and
- Vote a write-in ballot if needed.

Chairman Schwab arrived and took Chair of the committee.

Testimony was concluded and discussion followed.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 103** was closed.

The Chair opened the hearing on **SB 125 – Elections; certain local units of governments; primaries.** Doug Taylor, staff revisor, reviewed the bill.

Sherrie Riebel appeared in support of the bill and stated that the deadline for mailing Federal Service ballots in 9 ½ days is not enough time for ballots to be created and printed. The bill would eliminate possible errors on “makeshift” ballots. She stated that if the filing deadline is moved to June 1st, this would alleviate some of the problems and give both the Secretary of State more time to correct certified names and their office more time to prepare the ballots. (Attachment 2)

Don Pyle spoke in support of the bill stating that the change in the deadline will greatly assist elections officials and make it easier for them to meet the deadline for the delivery of Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act ballots. By allowing the election officials an additional 9 days it will make the ballot preparation process more manageable and reduce the chance of errors. (Attachment 3)

Written testimony in support of **SB 125** was submitted by:

Donna Zimmerman, Barton County Clerk (Attachment 4)
Joanne Long, Bourbon County Clerk (Attachment 5)
Bruce Newby, Wyandotte County Clerk (Attachment 6)
Linda Buttron, Jefferson County Clerk, (Attachment 7)
Karen Defore, Cowley County Clerk (Attachment 8).

Testimony was concluded and discussion followed.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB 125** was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Elections Committee at 9:00 a.m. on March 9, 2011, in Room 546-West of the Capitol.

Chairman Schwab called for final action on **SB 67 – Gubernatorial inauguration donations; disposition of residual monies.**

Representative Goico moved to pass SB 67 favorable for passage and add it to the consent calendar. The motion was seconded by Representative Rubin. Chairman Schwab stated that this bill was very time sensitive. Representative Gocio amended motion by removing the inclusion in the consent calendar, and Representative Rubin second, concurred. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.