

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Tony Powell at 3:30 p.m. on February 6, 2002 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Gwen Welshimer, Excused

Committee staff present: Ken Wilke, Revisor  
Dennis Hodgins, Research  
Shirley Weideman, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Nancy Kirk  
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Others attending: See attached list.

Chair Powell welcomed Representative Nancy Kirk to the committee meeting. She asked the committee to introduce a bill to eliminate the exception to the open meetings laws for the Kansas State Legislature.

Without objection, it will be introduced as a committee bill.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on **HB 2761 - Election procedures; voting by felons.**

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State appeared before the committee in support of **HB 2761**. He said that this bill is to clarify the voting rights of felons. Specifically, it seeks to clarify when and under what circumstances the right to register and vote are restored to persons convicted of federal or state felonies. Mr. Bryant indicated that passage of this legislation would resolve a contradiction in the language of three existing state statutes and the state constitution. There are two statutes that state that a person convicted of a felony never loses his/her civil rights if sentenced to dispositions not involving custody with the Department of Corrections, such as probation or conservation camp. This bill would clarify that a person loses the right to register, vote, hold public office and serve as a juror upon conviction of a felony and that those right are restored when the person is discharged from custody. (Attachment #1)

Mr. Bryant responded to questions asked by committee members.

The chair closed the hearing on **HB 2761**.

Representative Alan Goering introduced a bill that would allow all primary election to be open.

Without objection, it will be introduced as a bill.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Powell at 4:10 p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be February 11 at 3:30 p.m.