

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 p.m. on February 18, 2004 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Steve Huebert- excused

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Weideman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

HB 2629

Proponents: Representative Dale Swenson
Harriet Lange, Kansas Association of Broadcasters
Daniel Clark, Wichita

HB 2811

Proponents: Representative Bonnie Huy
John Todd, Wichita
William T. Davitt, Wichita attorney
Greg Dye, Wichita
W. Paul Degener, Topeka
Walt Chappell, Wichita Citizens for Equal Law Enforcement
Benny Boman, Wichita
Matthew Goolsby, Wichita (written testimony)
Representative Daniel Thimesch

Opponents: Sandy Jacquot, League of Kansas Municipalities
Jim Clark, Kansas Bar Association (written testimony)
Jill Michaux, Rossville city attorney

Others attending: See Attached List.

Chairman Myers opened the hearing on **HB 2629 - Elections; presidential primary, change of date.**

Representative Dale Swenson appeared before the committee as a proponent for **HB 2629**. He said he believes that Kansas should have a presidential primary election and it should be one that counts. He also said that in the past we have had a primary that didn't count, and we simply have canceled it in order to save money. He indicated that this bill would provide the primary early enough that it really would matter nation wide and he would like to see the presidential candidates come to Kansas to campaign. Representative Swenson told the committee that most presidential primaries now are decided in New Hampshire and Iowa. (Attachment 1)

Harriet Lange, Kansas Association of Broadcasters, appeared before the committee in support of **HB 2629**. She said that she is representing the KAB, which serves radio and television broadcast station members in Kansas. These stations provide more that \$110 million annually in community and public service time and fundraising for worthwhile organizations and causes in their local communities. She indicated that a presidential preference primary in Kansas would allow Kansas voters to be directly involved in the selection of the presidential candidates and much more important players in determining our national leadership. She also told the committee that an early presidential primary election in Kansas could bring more revenue into the state for media advertising and for other services like hotels and restaurants. (Attachment 2)

Daniel Clark, a citizen from Wichita, also was a proponent for **HB 2629**. He said his introduction to voting was in the presidential primary in 1980. He further said he believes that Kansas is an important state and this bill should be passed to have early presidential primary elections in Kansas.