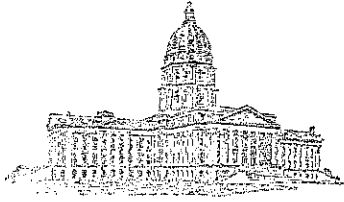


State of Kansas



Jim Ward

House Democratic Leader

Chairman Barker:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I rise in strong support of HB 2280, which will provide equity to a critical piece of state government.

For virtually every law enacted some agency in state government is charged with writing rules and regulations for implementing that law. These rules and regulations carry the weight and effect of law.

Once an agency has proposed rules and regulations to implement a new law or to improve the implementation of an old law it is required to present these ideas to a Joint Committee of House and Senate members. This committee provides legislative feedback to the agencies.

Kansas law also allows an agency to request temporary rules and regulations if the proposed rule or regulation needs to be expedited for "the preservation of the public peace, health, safety or welfare necessitates" and such necessities should be put into effect prior to the time of a regular Joint Committee can be scheduled to meet. This same law creates a State Rules and Regulations Board to determine if the statutory guidelines for enactment of temporary rules and regulations have been met.

The current membership of the State Rules and Regulations Board is the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Administration, the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations.

HB 2280 would add the ranking minority member of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations to the membership of the State Rules and Regulations Board. The bill requires the House Minority Leader and Senate Minority Leader to identify one of its members to be the ranking minority member on the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations when the chair of that chamber oversees the Committee.

Making this simple change will bring the State Rules and Regulations Board into line with every other committee involving legislators. It will provide for party balance and insure the voices of all the legislature are represented.