



Oral Testimony as Neutral before the
Senate Ethics, Elections & Local Government Committee
on
**SB 325 - City, school district, other municipal elected officials;
date for assuming office following election.**
by
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February 8, 2018**

Madam Chairwoman, Members of the Committee:

On December 3rd 2017, the Kansas School Boards Association Delegate Assembly adopted a one-year resolution relating to specific legislative issues of concern to Kansas School Boards. Having just completed the first fall election cycle of the new calendar, our members felt that a period of time to study and examine that experience was warranted and they adopted the following language in regards to the election cycle.

- Evaluate the impact of the new fall election cycle for local boards compared to disadvantages under school calendar.

Because of this, we present as Neutral on this Bill as our members have not taken a position on this particular proposal.

Under the previous municipal election calendar School Board terms began at the start of the academic fiscal year in July, meaning our members were used to having a delay period between the election certification in the Spring and the swearing in of members in the Summer.

While the new calendar has certainly generated some scheduling concerns, we feel that continued discussion with our members on any possible changes to the assuming of office calendar would warrant more discussions.

While we understand that local municipalities may wish to move forward with this issue, we would suggest that the legislation could be revisited in the spring of 2019, prior to the next regular municipal election or that school Board elections could be removed from them bill for review at a future date.

Therefore, we are not necessarily opposed to this change, but would prefer not taking action - at least for schools boards - until next year to give us more time to discuss with our membership.

I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.