

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1: 30 p.m. on January 24, 2001 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mike Heim, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Senator O'Connor  
Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State  
Connie Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner  
Larry Fischer DVM  
Jeannie Turner, District Court Clerk, Lyon County

Others attending: See attached list.

Hearing on: **SB 62 - enacting the constitutional awareness act**

Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department, explained **SB 62** would create the constitutional awareness act, and by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2001 require that all state officers take an open book test. The intent of the bill would be to test that persons knowledge of the Kansas Constitution, and the Constitution of the United States. The State offices would include: the Governor, Lt. Governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, commissioner of insurance, state senator, state representative, member of the state board of education, and any appointive office for which the appointment is subject to confirmation. The test would be created by the State Board of Regents, which would then create member committee to make up the examination and the handbook. The person seeking office would take the test two weeks prior to the election, and persons appointed by the Governor would need to take the test prior to taking office.

Senator O'Connor testified in support of **SB 62** - constitutional Awareness Act. Senator O'Connor stated the concept of this legislation is to improve the foundational knowledge necessary for the making of good laws so that lawmakers will be less likely to violate Kansans U. S. Constitutional rights (Attachment 1).

Dr. Larry Fischer, summarized his testimony in support of **SB 62** The constitution is the only law with an agreement or contract between the people and the government. The people are the principal and the government is the agent (Attachment 2).

There being no others wishing to testify, the hearing on **SB 62** was closed.

Hearing on: **SB 63 - relating to the registration of voters**

Dennis Hodgins, legislative research gave a quick review on **SB 63**. When a person is applying to register a vehicle, they are required to give certain information to determine their eligibility and for identifying their vehicle. The current application requires name, date of birth, telephone number and any previously registered vehicles. This bill would add the requirement to the application of the last four digits of the social security number.

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, testified before the committee in support of **SB 63**. Brad stated passage of this bill would give Kansas election officers a tool to reduce the number of duplicates and ineligible voters from the registration list (Attachment 3).

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Connie Schmidt, Johnson County Election Commissioner, gave final testimony in support of **SB 63**, (Attachment 4). She stated the additional requirement of the last four digits of the social security number would assist in determining voter eligibility, and maintaining the official voter registration file.

There being no others wishing to testify on **SB 63** the hearing was closed.

Hearing on: **SB 47 - concerning elections; relating to objections**

Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research, explained **SB 47**. The bill removes the clerk of the district court as one of the persons who considers objections to nomination for county, township, city, and school officers, and replaces that person with an elected official whose position is not involved in the controversy.

Jeannie Turner, District court Clerk, Lyon County appeared before the committee in support of **SB 47** (Attachment 5). She appeared on behalf of the Kansas Association of District Court Clerks and Administrators (KADCCA).

There being no others wishing to testify on **SB47** the hearing was closed.

Senator Clark requested the committee to attain information to a question he had regarding **SB 47**. In a school district comprising parts of more than one county, to which county election officer is an objection filed?

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled January 25,