

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Edmonds at 1:30 P.M. on February 7, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Barbara Craft- excused

Representative Kenny Wilk- excused

Committee staff present:

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office

Carol Doel, Committee Secretary

Conferees:

Representative Peggy Mast

Representative Ed O'Malley

Tanner Burenheide

Charles Yunker, State Adjutant for American Legion

Ken Stodgell, VFW State Legislative Chairman

Frank Lowery, Vietnam Veteran

Others attending:

See attached list

Representative Peggy Mast came before the committee to recognize the members of the Civil Air Patrol who came to sit in on the committee hearing of the Veteran's bill. These are students who are practicing to be good military officers someday.

Chairman Edmonds opened the floor for introduction of bills. and requested introduction of a bill dealing with the registration of antique military vehicles.

With no objections, that request is accepted for introduction.

Representative O'Malley addressed the Committee with a briefing on **HB 2559** - Campaign finance amendments relating to independent expenditures, electioneering communications, certain reporting requirements, and corrupt political advertising. The Representative told the committee that he does not have all the information that is needed to convey the constitutionality of the provisions in **HB 2559**. The Representative introduced Paul Ryan of Washington D.C., who has specialized in campaign finance, ethics, and election law for seven years and is former Political Reform Project Director at the Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles. Mr. Ryan regularly represents the Campaign Legal Center before the Federal Election Commission. He is also one of the nation's leading experts on public campaign financing and local government campaign finance law has had published a number of topics.

Mr. Ryan spoke to the Committee regarding many aspects of the Federal Campaign Funding Law. This is all available in his comprehensive testimony which was distributed for committee review.

Mr. Ryan's testimony included:

- A booklet entitled *Enhancing Values: Practical Campaign Reforms for States* (Available from The Reform Institute - 211 North Union Street, Suite 250 - Alexandria, VA 22314 PH: 703-535-6897)
- Credentials of Mr. Ryan ([Attachment 1](#))
- Information regarding The Reform Institute ([Attachment 2](#))
- Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 - Pillars for States ([Attachment 3](#))
- Summary of Supreme Court Decision on McCain-Feingold ([Attachment 4](#))
- Summary of North Caroline Electioneering Legislation, H737 ([Attachment 5](#))
- Copy of the North Carolina General Assembly Session 2003 ([Attachment 6](#))
- Copy of an article from The Washington Post by David Broder entitled *A Win for Campaign Reform* ([Attachment 7](#))
- Copy of an article from The Wall Street Journal entitled *McCain-Feingold Did Its Job* by Albert Hunt

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 P.M. on February 7, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

(Attachment 8)

- Copy of an article from USA Today entitled *Paying For Campaigns: McCain Eyes Next Target* by John McCain (Attachment 9)
- Copy of article from Business Week entitled *Campaign Finance: How to Fix A Rigged System, author unknown.* (Attachment 10)
- Copy of an article entitled *Curbing the 527's* by J. Barlow Herget. N.C. Center for Voter Education (Attachment 11)

Representative O'Malley returned before the committee to urge the approval of **HB 2559**

The Chairman opened the floor for public hearing on **HB 2728** - concerning employers required to give paid leave to veterans on Veterans' Day, and recognized Representative Peggy Mast as a proponent of the bill. Representative Mast stated that a young constituent, Tanner Burenheide, approached her and expressed disappointment that his father, who was a veteran, was unable to celebrate a holiday that was given in honor of him and his service to our nation because his job security. It is for this reason that they are asking for the support of **HB 2728**. (Attachment 12)

Representative Mast introduced Tanner Burenheide, a 7th Grade student from Emporia, addressed the committee supporting **HB 2728**. Master Burenheide presented testimony that related his father served in both Desert Storm & Operation Iraqi Freedom. He would like to know that when Veterans Day comes around next year, his family can count on standing beside his father at the many activities in which they wish to participate in order to honor him and all veterans. He would like to be assured that his dad won't have to choose between job security and the loyalty and the patriotism he feels towards his country and fellow veterans. (Attachment 13)

Charles Yunker, Adjutant, American Legion Department of Kansas, supports the passage of **HB 2728**. In his testimony, Mr. Yunker stated that in 1953 President Eisenhower signed a law to change Armistice Day to Veteran's Day. At that time most veterans were given the day off with a day's wages. Time began to change things. He further opined that in the 1960's the anti-war sentiment reduced Veterans Day to an excuse for merchants to promote "Veterans Day" sales instead of honoring the sacrifices made by millions of men and women who choose to defend our nation. (Attachment 14)

Ken Stodgell, VFW State Legislative Chairman, testified in favor of **HB 2728**. Mr. Stodgell related that in his opinion, that given what veterans have sacrificed for the state and country, it certainly seems appropriate that their employers would allow them the small gesture of a paid day off for Veteran's Day. (Attachment 15)

Frank Lowery, a veteran from Emporia, Kansas, spoke regarding the phrase "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." In his opinion that phrase is being taken for granted throughout the nation. He supports **HB 2728** not just because he is a veteran, but in part because of what President Ronald Reagan said in 1981, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction, it must be fought for, protected and handed on." He further opined that **HB 2728** sends a message that we as Americans understand that our Freedoms, Rights and Privileges have come with a price and our Veterans have paid that price. (Attachment 16)

Written testimony was supporting **HB 2728** was received from Frank Nichols, a Veteran from Emporia, Kansas. (Attachment 17)

There were no opponents of the bill.

There was a request for Research to try to obtain information regarding the number of employed veterans in the state and their wages.

With no further business before the committee, Chairman Edmonds adjourned the meeting.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 P.M. on February 7, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.