

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Burgess at 3:30 P.M. on February 19, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sawyer- excused  
Representative Julie Menghini- excused

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department  
Matt Spurgin, Legislative Research Department  
Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Maureen Stinson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Harriet Lange  
Joan Barrett  
Shayla Johnston  
Adam Gash  
Robert Garcia  
Diane Gjerstad  
Brad Bryant  
Rocky Nichols

Others attending:

See attached list.

**HB 2281** Elections; advance ballots; disabled persons

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on **HB 2281**.

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). He explained that Section 1 of the bill also contains some cleanup language to update references to voters with disabilities or lack of proficiency in reading the English language.

Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by Kevin Siek, Topeka Independent Living Resource Center ([Attachment 2](#)).

Rocky Nichols, Disability Rights Center of Kansas, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 3](#)). He explained that the bill puts new requirements on the person with a disability and on the person who is transporting their ballot.

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2281**.

**HB 2309** Open records; information about persons transporting students, members of the public

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on **HB 2309**.

Harriet Lange, Kansas Association of Broadcasters, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 4](#)). She explained that the bill would provide the same level of accountability for all drivers who transport students or other members of the public, irrespective of their employer, whether a private contractor or a public agency.

Joan Barrett, Sunflower Broadcasting, Inc., testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 5](#)). She stated that by simply hiring private companies to perform duties for public bodies, the records all become private.

Shayla Johnston, resident of Kechi, Kansas, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 6](#)). She explained that the bill cures a defect in the current Kansas Open Records Act that has previously been abused by companies like Durham to protect the privacy of their drivers over the safety interests of the children whom they are paid

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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tax dollars to serve.

Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by:

Randy Brown, Kansas Sunshine Coalition ([Attachment 7](#))

Doug Anstaett, Kansas Press Association ([Attachment 8](#))

Robert Garcia, Durham School Services, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 9](#)). He explained that the bill is not the answer. He said that the answer would be to mandate state changes in how school bus drivers are licensed and screened at the state level.

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, testified neutral to the bill ([Attachment 10](#)). She explained that the bill would require school districts who contract for transportation services to make available the name, position, salary, and length of service of the employees of the private contractor.

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2309**.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2007.