

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 p.m. on January 21, 2004 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Weideman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative R.J. Wilson
Carol Williams, Governmental Ethics Commission Director

Others attending: See Attached List.

Chairman Myers introduced the new committee staff member, Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department.

Committee Chairman Myers asked if there were any requests for bills.

Representative Sawyer requested two bills. The first one would allow candidates to file campaign financial reports electronically. The second bill would protect state employees by allowing them to talk to elected representatives and senators without recourse. Representative Sawyer moved that these bills be introduced. Representative Gilbert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The hearing on **HB 2520 - Campaign finance; allowing candidate to sign reports in lieu of treasurer** was opened by Chairman Myers.

Representative R.J. Wilson appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2520**. He said that under the current law the candidate is not allowed to sign the campaign financial report that is submitted to the Governmental Ethics Commission. Representative Wilson also said that at the present time, he prepares the financial report and then gives it to his treasurer to sign. He does not believe that his treasurer should be liable for a report that the treasurer has not prepared.

Carol Williams, Governmental Ethics Commission Director, appeared before the committee as neutral on **HB 2520**. She answered questions asked by committee members regarding liability, who would pay the fine if levied and whether or not some candidates are their own treasurer.

The hearing on **HB 2520** was closed by Chairmen Myers.

Chairman Myers said the committee would work **HB 2520**.

Representative Huff moved that **HB 2520** be moved favorably from committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Wilson. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is January 26 at 3:30 p.m.