

MINUTES OF THE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Tony Powell at 3:30 p.m. on March 14, 2001 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Hermes, Excused
Representative Huff, Excused

Committee staff present: Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shirley Weideman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

SB 171 - Proponents: Senator Barbara Allen
Natalie Haag, Governor's Representative

SB 108 - Proponent: Natalie Haag, Governor's Representative

SB 192 Proponent: John Webb, citizen, Lawrence

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on **SB 171 - State aircraft travel by the governor.**

Senator Barbara Allen appeared before the committee in support of **Sub SB 171**. She said that the original intent and purpose for the bill is to keep the Governor safe. The bill states that if the Governor elects to travel by state-owned vehicle or aircraft for personal or political business, and the Superintendent of the Highway Patrol has not deemed such transportation be necessary for the security of the Governor or his family, the Governor may use the vehicle or aircraft and reimburse the State of Kansas for its use at a rate set by the Secretary of Administration. (attachment #1) Senator Allen directed the committee's attention to testimony from Lindsay Olsen, Mortgage Investment Trust Corporation, who is a pilot for the Governor and donates his time to fly the Governor around the state. (attachment #2) She answered questions asked by committee members.

Natalie Haag, the Governor's Representative, gave testimony before the committee in support of **SB 171**. She said that SB 171 is consistent with current law that allows the Superintendent of the Highway Patrol to transport the Governor at state expense when it is necessary to provide adequate security. This bill adds a provision to allow the Governor to reimburse the State of Kansas for use of the state-owned transportation if he or she is attending a political or personal event. She added that the FAA currently prohibits the reimbursement of such expenses based upon the type of license currently held by the State pilots. This issue would need to be resolved if the bill passes. She suggests changing the wording in Section 1, Paragraph 2 to "the superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall designate the mode of transportation deemed necessary for the purpose of providing security for the governor and the governor's family." (attachment #3) Ms. Haag answered questions asked by committee members.

Chairman Powell closed the hearing on **SB 171**.

Chair Powell opened the hearing on **SB 108 - Elections; establishing requirements for electronic reporting of campaign contributions.**

Natalie Haag, Governor's Representative, appeared before the committee in support of **SB 108**. She said that SB 108 promotes a more educated voting public by requiring large statewide campaigns to file campaign finance reports by electronic means and requiring daily reporting of campaign receipts during the 11 days immediately preceding the primary and general election. Ms. Haag said that all other reports are filed as you currently do them under current law. (attachment #4) She explained the contributions received by statewide candidates in the 11 day time period before the 1998 primary and general elections in the amount of \$500 or more. She gave some figures from the written testimony of Carol Williams, Governmental Ethics Commission Director. (attachment #5) Ms. Haag answered committee questions.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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There being no further questions, Chairman Powell closed the hearing on **SB 108**.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on **SB 192 - Campaign finance; defining party committee to include congressional district party committees.**

John Webb, citizen, Lawrence, Kansas, appeared before the committee in support of **SB 192**. He is in support of open primary elections. (attachment #6)

Carol Williams, Governmental Ethics Commission Director, clarified that **SB 192** is a bill that Trent LeDoux, chairman of the 2nd Congressional District Republican Party, asked for before the Senate Committee. Currently congressional district party committees are treated as PACs and this bill would take them out from under PAC designation and designate as party committee. SB 192 would add congressional district party committees to the list of other party committees as defined in current law.

Ms. Williams answered questions asked by committee members.

The hearing on **SB 192** was closed by Chairman Powell.

Sub for HB 2489 - State governmental ethics; limitations of gifts, food and beverages.

Representative Ray moved and Representative Gilbert seconded the motion to remove the provisions dealing with ethics from HB 2490 and put it into Substitute bill for HB 2489 . Motion passed.

Representative Wilson moved that Sub for HB 2489 be passed favorably from committee. Representative Mayans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sub for SB 192 - State officers and employees; compensation.

Representative Alldritt moved a substitute motion that the provisions dealing with the pay commission from HB 2490 be moved to Substitute for SB 192, with the date for the commission to be appointed changed from April 2 to May 1 and the date the recommendations are to be made by the pay commission be changed from June 1 to June 15. The motion was seconded by Representative Barnes. Motion carried.

Representative Ray moved that Sub for SB 192 be passed favorably from the committee. Representative Mayans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is March 19.