MINUTES OF THE HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jene Vickrey at 3:30 p.m. on January 15, 2004 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative Larry Campbell- excused
Representative Ralph Ostmeyer- excused
Representative Ruby Gilbert- excused

Committee staff present:
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Mike Heim Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Maureen Stinson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
none

Others attending:
See Attached List.

Bill Introductions

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor, presented a request from Sen. Barnett to re-introduce a bill concerning the use of pyrotechnics in places of public assembly. The Committee took no action concerning the request.

Kansas Open Records Act

Chairman Vickrey informed the Committee that special committees directed to begin review of the exceptions as recommended by the Interim Special Committee on Local Government would not be appointed in the immediate future. Another Interim Committee recommendation was that various special interest groups and state agencies meet together as one group and attempt to reach consensus on how the review should be conducted and what exceptions should be reviewed. This group has held meetings and may soon make a recommendation.

Staff Briefing

Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes, briefed the committee concerning the legislative review of statutory exceptions to disclosure of public records (Attachment 1). Under K.S.A. 45-229, all statutory exemptions to disclosure in existence on July 1, 2000, expire on July 1, 2005, unless the legislature acts to reenact the exception. He said the Office of the Revisor of Statutes is currently in the process of identifying statutes which contain such exceptions. He said the number of exceptions has been revised downward and is now at 250 plus.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2004.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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