

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 13, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Mike Peterson- 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:

Rich Vargo

Rep. Tom Holland

Brad Bryant

Brian Newby

Ron Roberts

Kevin Siek

Others attending:

See attached list.

HB 2357 Election commissioners; appointment by certain counties

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on **HB 2357**.

Rich Vargo, Riley County Clerk and Election Official, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). He concluded that the scope of elections has increased so much due to the Help America Vote Act that elections and all of our many other responsibilities deserve and demand that a separation of the responsibilities must be divided to do a better job in all areas.

Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by Don Merriman, Saline County Clerk ([Attachment 2](#)).

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2357**.

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on **HB 2259**.

Rep. Tom Holland testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 3](#)). He explained that he proposed this legislation in response to highly publicized problems with electronic voting machines that lack paper audit trails.

Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by Don Merriman, Saline County Clerk ([Attachment 4](#)).

Brad Bryant, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 5](#)). He explained that Congress is currently considering legislation to require VVPAT's. He said that there is a chance that if such a federal law passes, it will include funding, which will help alleviate the large fiscal note attached to HB 2259.

Brian Newby, Election Commissioner, Johnson County Election Office, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 6](#)). He requested that if the committee moves ahead with legislation this year, that they be very specific regarding the use of the paper receipts as the official ballot of records for recounts.

Kevin Siek, Topeka Independent Living Resource Center, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 7](#)). He requested a proposed amendment which would ensure that all citizens have the ability to cast a secret ballot and verify the integrity of that ballot, including voters with disabilities.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Elections and Governmental Organization Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Ron Roberts, Butler County Clerk, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 8).

Rep. Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2259**.

HB 2357

Rep. Lane made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2357** and asked that it be placed on the Consent Calendar. Rep. Horst seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HB 2332

Rep. Sawyer made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2332**. Rep. Vickrey seconded the motion. Rep. Sawyer made a substitute motion to adopt an amendment that was requested by the Office of the Secretary of State. Rep. Vickrey seconded the motion. The motion carried. Rep. Sawyer made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2332** as amended. Rep. Vickrey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Substitute for HB 2129

Rep. Vickrey made a motion to amend **HB 2129** by substituting a new bill to be designated as "**Substitute for HOUSE BILL NO. 2129**" to include language recommended by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters (Attachment 9). Rep. Lane seconded the motion. The motion carried. Rep. Lane made a motion for the favorable passage of **Substitute for HOUSE BILL NO. 2129**. Rep. Horst seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2007.