

MINUTES OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson John Vratil at 9:37 a.m. on February 12, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Gordon Self, Revisor
Mike Heim, Research
Mary Blair, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Derek Schmidt
Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh

Others attending: see attached list

The Chair distributed copies of, and briefly discussed, correspondence from SRS Secretary Janet Schalansky, addressing Committee Members' inquiries at the January 23rd meeting on the Kansas Payment Center. (attachment 1)

SB 139—concerning civil procedure; re: liability for domestic animal activities

Conferee Senator Schmidt testified in support of **SB 139**. He reviewed the current statute regarding domestic animal activities in Kansas which states that a person participating in a domestic animal activity assumes the risk of participating in the activity and stated that his bill proposal would add "bison" to the list of domestic animals named in the statute. He summarized the current activities of a native son in his district who is promoting a tourist attraction called the "prairie experience" which will include bison. He discussed conditions in which the bison owner would still be liable. (attachment 2) He further mentioned an article in the Metro section of today's Kansas City Star, B 1-2, which discusses the "prairie passage." Following brief discussion Senator Adkins moved to pass the bill out favorably, Senator Schmidt seconded. Carried.

SB 128—concerning election crimes

Conferee Thornburgh testified in support of **SB 128**. He discussed the four types of election problems encountered in recent years: voter registration suppression; vote trading; voter intimidation; and electioneering, cited examples of each and detailed how **SB 128** addresses each of these problems by making the first two a crime and by expanding on the current statutes to include issues relevant to the latter. (attachment 3) Discussion included questions regarding what constituted electioneering and the type of penalties imposed by the bill. The Conferee agreed to write amendments to address these concerns.

SB 119—concerning mental health; re: screenings and placements

The Chair summarized **SB 119**, a bill which provides that juvenile offender cases and misdemeanor cases require a community mental health screening prior to admission to state psychiatric hospitals and also provides liability immunity for the mental health professional. Following discussion and clarification for Committee by staff regarding liability immunity, Senator Oleen moved to pass the bill out favorably, Senator Goodwin seconded. Carried.

SB 67—DUI; concerning penalties

The Chair summarized **SB 67**, a bill which makes consistent, driving laws for persons under the age of 21 with a blood alcohol level of .08 or greater by requiring them to serve a standard one-year suspension. At the request of the Chair, Senator Pugh presented an overview of the DUI penalty process. Following discussion and the lateness of the hour there was consensus to table the bill until tomorrow.

The meeting adjourned at 10: 31 p.m. The next meeting is February 13, 2001.