

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 6, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Ted Powers- excused
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:

Rep. Virginia Beamer	Daniel Harden
Rep. Jene Vickrey	Wayne Flaharty
J. Michael Davis	Don Moler
Alan Cobb	Randall Allen
Rep. Ben Hodge	Mark Disetti
Bill McKean	Jim Edwards
Erik Sartorius	Sue Morgan
Gary George	

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on:

HB 2081 Recreation commissions, removal of members

Rep. Virginia Beamer testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). She explained that the bill would allow for petition and election. She explained that the petition would need to have signatures of 5 percent of the number of qualified voters in the taxing district who voted in the last presidential election to bring the removal of a member to a vote of the electorate.

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2081**.

HB 2081 Recreation commissions; removal of members

Rep. Brunk made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2081** and asked that it be placed on the Consent Calendar. Rep. Metsker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on:

HB 2217 Counties; adoption of codes by reference

J. Michael Davis, representing Heart of America Chapter, ICC, and Miami County, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 2](#)). He explained that the proposed amendment to KSA 12-3304 reduces the number of model code copies requires to be filed with a city or county clerk to a single copy.

Rep. Jene Vickrey testified in support of the bill. He explained that the bill would change the number of copies from three to one and that expenditures for counties would be decreased.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Elections and Governmental Organization Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 6, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2217**.

Rep. Metsker made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2217** and asked that it be placed on the Consent Calendar. Rep. Sawyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on:

HB 2260 Political subdivision lobbying; use of public funds prohibited

Wayne Flaharty, resident of Overland Park, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 3](#)). He asked for a vote to end taxpayer subsidies for the army of lobbyists who clutter up your committee rooms.

Alan Cobb, State Director, Americans for Prosperity, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 4](#)). He explained that lobbyists and lobbying organizations have no accountability to the taxpayers and are not currently subject to open records.

Rep. Ben Hodge, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 5](#)). He explained that he objects to the idea that Kansas taxpayers should pay the salaries of individuals whose primary job it is to lobby on the behalf of government.

Bill McKean, resident of Wichita, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 6](#)). He testified that he is concerned about senior legislators focusing their energies on the policies of achieving an important leadership position so that they can retire and secure a cushy job with a government agency that needs to hire a lobbyist in Topeka.

G. Daniel Harden, resident of Meriden, KS, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 7](#)). He testified that by its very nature, lobbying in a representative democracy should be the prerogative of the private sector.

Richard Miller, resident of Manhattan, KS, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 8](#)). He testified that he has learned that there are dozens of taxpayer-funded lobbyists roaming the Capitol.

Paul Barkey, resident of Manhattan, KS, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 9](#)). He said that we can now acknowledge a threat and that is for the government to hire their own influence peddlers whose primary goal is to grow the size of the government.

Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by the following:

Tessla Barnett ([Attachment 10](#))

Kim Borchers ([Attachment 11](#))

John D'Aloia Jr. ([Attachment 12](#))

John Lewis ([Attachment 13](#))

Don Moler, LKM, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 14](#)). He explained that the bill would prohibit any officer or employee of any city, county, unified school district or other political or taxing subdivision of the State to make or authorize the expenditure of funds or monies of such political subdivision to pay the cost of employing or contracting for the services of any person whose duty and responsibility is lobbying on behalf of the political or taxing subdivision.

Randall Allen, KAC, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 15](#)). He said that **HB 2260** is an attempt to silent those persons employed by a city or county or unified school district, or by the Kansas Association of Counties of League of Kansas Municipalities, who regularly communicate with legislators about the needs and priorities of local government.

Mark Disetti, KNEA, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 16](#)). He explained that the bill is a fundamental stifling of democracy.

Jim Edwards, KASB, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 17](#)). He said that it would appear the intent of the bill is to prohibit any person from expressing support or opposition to any state action on behalf

CONTINUATION SHEET

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of one or more school districts if they receive any compensation from the district.

Erik Sartorius, City of Overland Park, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 18). He explained that decisions made by the legislature can have multi-million dollar effects on local governments and their citizens, leaving a choice of cutting services or raising taxes at the local level.

Sue Morgan, President, USD 497, Lawrence Public Schools, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 19). She explained that the language in the bill is so broad that it greatly concerns them.

Gary George, Asst. Superintendent, Olathe School district, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 20). He explained that they find it inconsistent that the bill prohibits units of local government from lobbying for their interests by does not prohibit lobbying the United States Congress or federal agencies to meet the interests and concerns of the state.

Written testimony in opposition to the bill was submitted by:

Andy Schlapp, Sedgwick County, (Attachment 21)

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2260**.

Rep. Steve Huebert made a motion for the favorable approval of the February 5, 2007 minutes. Rep. Menghini seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7, 2007.