

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 15, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Melody McCray-Miller- excused
Representative Deena Horst- excused
Representative Mike Peterson- excused
Representative Jo Ann Pottorff- excused
Representative Harold Lane- 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:

Doug Ansteatt
Dan Gibb
Jim Edwards
Judy Moler
Kim Winn

Others attending:

See attached list.

HB 2493 Open meetings; open records; training of public officials

Chairman Burgess opened the hearing on **HB 2493**.

Doug Ansteatt, Kansas Press Association, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 1](#)). He explained that they support the bill because it requires elected and some appointed officials who work for public agencies in Kansas to undergo training on the Kansas Open Records Act and the Kansas Open Meetings Act after being sworn into office. He said that the amendment ([Attachment 2](#)) they propose is designed to meet some of the objections posed to the original bill by the Kansas Attorney General's Office and other interested parties.

Dan Gibb, Assistant Attorney General, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 3](#)). He recommended allowing their office the time to meet with the interested parties and continue working on amending language to **HB 2493** that would address their concerns.

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in support of the bill ([Attachment 4](#)). He explained that their group has offered many times in both the House and the Senate, the concept of mandatory training for school board members on a variety of subjects, whether it be on the Kansas Open Meetings Act, Kansas Open Records Act, or a multitude of other school board related functions and duties.

Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by Harriet Lange, Kansas Association of Broadcasters ([Attachment 5](#)).

Judy Moler, Kansas Association of Counties, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 6](#)). She emphasized that their group supports training on the Kansas Open Records Act and the Kansas Open Meetings Act but that they don't think a statutory mandate is necessary.

Kimberly Winn, League of Kansas Municipalities, testified in opposition to the bill ([Attachment 7](#)). She stated their group's belief that by and large public officials in this state act reasonably and there is no evidence of widespread violations of the Kansas Open Meetings Act and the Kansas Open Records Act.

Chairman Burgess closed the hearing on **HB 2493**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Elections and Governmental Organization Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 15, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

HB 2083 Campaign finance, use of unexpended campaign funds

Rep. Brunk made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2083**. Rep. Metsker seconded the motion. The motion passed. Rep. Don Dahl requested to be recorded as a "No" vote.

HB 2173 Elections; advance voting; identification clarification

Rep. Vickrey made a motion to adopt a technical amendment to **HB 2173**. Rep. Storm seconded the motion. The motion passed. Rep. Sawyer made a motion for the favorable passage of **HB 2173** as amended. Rep. Storm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 19, 2007.