

Approved: March 9, 2012
(Date)

MINUTES OF THE SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. on January 30, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present, except Senator Brungardt, who was excused

Committee staff present:

Craig Callahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Theresa Kiernan, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dick Carter, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

Others Attending:

See Attached List

The Chairperson opened the hearings on **SB 344–Congressional redistricting**.

A packet of maps relating to **SB 344** was distributed to the Committee. The packet included a map of the current Congressional District boundaries and detailed maps of certain areas of the state under **SB 344 (Attachment 1)**.

The Chairperson stated that **SB 344** was introduced by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs at his request and the bill would codify the Congressional District Plan proposed in Sunflower 9c (first distributed on January 18, 2012).

The Chairperson opened the public comment portion of the hearing.

Dick Carter testified in opposition to **SB 344**. He stated that the bill does not address the concerns expressed in the testimony submitted on January 23rd on behalf of the Mahattan Area Chamber of Commerce, the task force formed by the Chamber and the Board of County Commisioners of Riley County.

The Chairperson closed the public comment portion of the hearing and asked for Committee Discussion on **SB 344**.

Senator Teichman reiterated her concerns with placing Edward, Kiowa, Comanche, Stafford, Pratt and Barber counties within the 4th Congressional District. She stated while those counties do not share a community of interest with the city of Wichita and Sedgwick County, they do share a community of interest with counties located in the 1st Congressional District.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Reapportionment Committee at 12:00 P.M. on January 30, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Senator Petersen also expressed the same concern raised by Senator Teichman. In addition, he expressed concern that the city of Manhattan would not be located in the 2nd Congressional District.

Senator Ostmeyer stated he also shared some the concerns expressed by Senator Teichman. He added that **SB 344** is much better than the "Topeka/D.C." plan that was circulated last summer which would have extended the 1st Congressional District across the northern border of the state and then down to include Wyandotte County within the 1st Congressional District.

Senator Vratil distributed a map, designated as Sunflower 9aaa, to address concerns previously raised by Senator Teichman relating to the six counties proposed to be included along the western portion of the 4th Congressional District (Attachment 2). He stated those six counties (and a portion of Kingman County) share a strong community of interest with the 1st Congressional District. In addition, McPherson County would be included within the 4th Congressional District with which it shares a stronger community of interest than with the 1st Congressional District. Under the proposal, a portion of Nemaha County would be included within the 1st Congressional District and Wabaunsee County would be included within the 2nd Congressional District. The proposal would divide three counties, but all of Douglas County would be within the 2nd Congressional District.

The Chairperson recognized Senator Reitz, who was in the audience. Senator Reitz stated that Riley County is not included within the 2nd Congressional District under either Sunflower 9c (**SB 344**) or Sunflower 9aaa. Senator Reitz expressed concern that NBAF would lose financial and other support under the proposed plans, resulting in a negative effect on the state's economy as a whole.

In response to Senator Teichman's concerns relating to the inclusion of the six rural counties within the 4th Congressional District, the Chairperson stated rural areas would need to be included within the 4th Congressional District in order to meet the population requirements. The residents of those six counties do share some communities of interest with Sedgwick County and the 4th Congressional District. The residents of those rural counties use hospitals, retail and other facilities located in Sedgwick County.

The Chairperson noted that **SB 344** and Sunflower 9aaa, while drawn differently, are both compactly drawn in contrast to the Topeka/D.C. plan circulated this summer. The Chairperson stated the Topeka/D.C. plan constitutes gerrymandering and does not consider communities of interest.

The Chairperson asked the committee to be prepared to work **SB 344** at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 1, 2012.