

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jene Vickrey at 3:30 P.M. on January 24, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Jim Yonally - excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Legislative Research Department
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Maureen Stinson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rep. Bill Otto
David Schauner, KNEA
Rep. Pat Mah
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
Jim Edwards, KASB

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introductions

Rep. Stephanie Sharp requested a committee bill relating to voting at satellite locations.

Without objection, the request will be accepted as a committee bill.

Rep. Mario Goico requested a committee bill relating to the electronic recording of executive sessions.

Without objection, the request will be accepted as a committee bill.

Chairman Jene Vickrey requested a committee bill relating to drawing boundaries for water districts.

Without objection, the request will be accepted as a committee bill.

Chairman Jene Vickrey requested a committee bill relating to planning and zoning commissions and requiring denials to be in written form.

Without objection, the request will be accepted as a committee bill.

Chairman Vickrey opened the hearing on:

HB 2209 Authorizing school district employees to serve on school district boards of education

Rep. Bill Otto testified in support of the bill (Attachment 1). He explained that currently, substitute teachers, cooks, custodians, bus drivers are excluded from serving on school district boards of education.

David Schauner, Kansas National Education Association, testified in support of the bill (Attachment 2). He said that to prohibit teachers or any other employee from serving on a board of education does a disservice to the public by prohibiting individuals with professional expertise from serving and thereby removing from the pool of prospective board members information and expertise which would ultimately serve not only voters but the children of school districts as well.

Rep. Ann Mah, testified in support of the bill. She did not provide written testimony.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Governmental Organization and Elections Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 24, 2006 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 3). She explained that school boards govern the working conditions, salaries, and policies impacting students and staff. She said that it is simply not in the best interest of the public to have public employees serve as both employees and employers.

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in opposition to the bill (Attachment 4). He said that they believe that the opportunities for conflicts of interest to arise are much, much greater when a person is employed by the district where they serve on the board.

Chairman Vickrey closed the hearing on **HB 2209**.

Approval of Minutes

Rep. Goico made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2006 meeting. Rep. Sawyer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Chairman Vickrey adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2006.