

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 p.m. on February 2, 2004 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sawyer- excused
Representative Roger Toelkes-excused
Representative Ruby Gilbert-excused

Committee staff present:

Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins Legislative Research Department
Shirley Weideman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Brian Caskey, Secretary of State's Office

Others attending: See Attached List.

Chairman Myers asked if there were any committee bills. There were none.

Committee Chairman Myers opened the hearing on **HB 2589 - Campaign finance act; electronic filing of reports.**

Legislative Researcher Martha Dorsey was asked by the chairman to explain **HB 2589**. Martha said that this bill authorizes a number of the reports that are required to be filed in paper form with the Secretary of State's Office and /or the county elections officer's office to also be filed electronically with the Governmental Ethics Commission. Ms. Dorsey explained that Section 1. deals with the appointment of a campaign treasurer or a candidate committee. The name and address of each treasurer or chairperson of the committee is required to be reported to the Secretary of State. This paper report will remain in the law under this bill. This same report may also be filed electronically with the Governmental Ethics Commission. She explained that Section 2. deals with the party or political committee which anticipates the receipt of contributions or the making of a contribution. These required paper reports are statements of organization and must be filed for state officers with the Secretary of State's Office and in the case of local office candidates they must be filed with the county officers. They may also be filed electronically with the Governmental Ethics Commission. Ms. Dorsey also explained that Section 3. deals with paper treasurer's reports of political parties, campaigns or candidates that must be filed with the Secretary of State and/or the county election officers and may also be filed electronically with the Governmental Ethics Commission. She said that under Section 4., the dissolution of a party committee, candidate committee, political committee or the termination of a candidate's treasurer, requires that a termination report be filed with the Secretary of State's office and/or the county election office. This report may also be filed electronically. She stated that Section 5. deals with the report filed with the Secretary of State's office by the governor-elect when an inaugural treasurer is appointed. Ms. Dorsey told the committee that this report may also be filed electronically with the Governmental Ethics Commission.

Committee members asked questions of guests present. Chairman Myers asked Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Brad Bryant whether the Secretary of State's Office is able to receive these reports electronically and he also asked Governmental Ethics Commission Director Carol Williams whether her office could receive these reports electronically. Both replied that they were unable at this time to receive electronic reports securely.

Committee Chairman Myers had concerns about an extra step being added to the process of filing reports. He said that at present, the candidates, the parties, committees and the treasurers do not file reports with the Governmental Ethics Commission.

Chairman Myers decided to continue the hearing on **HB 2589** when the bill's sponsor could be questioned on his intent for the bill.