

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sharon Schwartz at 3:32 p.m. on February 17, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Mike Peterson - Excused
Representative Seiwert - Excused

Committee staff present:

Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carol Bertram, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Kay Pesnell, Douglas County Register of Deeds, Kansas Register of Deeds Association
Whitney Damron, City of Topeka
Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager, City of Topeka

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Sharon Schwartz, Chair, opened the hearing on **HB 2125 - Requiring receipt for paid real estate tax before recording certain documents.**

Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, presented background information and explained the reasons for the proposed changes.

Kay Pesnell, Douglas County Register of Deeds, and August Dettbarn, Douglas County Appraisal Manager II, appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Kansas Register of Deeds Association in support of **HB 2125 (Attachment 1)**. Ms. Pesnell stated the Register of Deeds Association has voted in favor of this bill and the bill will enhance protection of the consumer.

Questions and answers followed.

There being no further conferees to appear, Representative Schwartz, Chair, closed the hearing on **HB 2125**.

Representative Schwartz, Chair, opened the hearing on **HB 2155 - City of Topeka land bank.**

Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained each section of **HB 2155**.

Questions and answers followed.

The Chair recognized Whitney Damron, City of Topeka, who presented testimony in support of **HB 2155 (Attachment 2)**. He stated **HB 2155** would allow the City of Topeka to establish a land bank similar to one created by Wyandotte County. Included in his testimony was a set of documents describing Wyandotte County's current land bank program.

Questions and answers followed.

Randy Speaker, Deputy City Manager, City of Topeka, presented testimony in support of **HB 2155 (Attachment 3)**. He stated given the current state of the economy, the City of Topeka needs to have all available tools to address the foreclosures and pending restructuring of residential debt.

Questions and answers followed.

There being no further conferees present to testify in regard to **HB 2155**, Chair Schwartz closed the hearing on **HB 2155**.

Chair Schwartz opened the hearing on **HB 2157 - Topeka/Shawnee County Riverfront Authority.**

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Local Government Committee at 3:30 p.m. on February 17, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, gave an overview of **HB 2157** noting the change to current law that are in the bill.

Whitney Damron, City of Topeka, presented testimony in support of **HB 2157** (Attachment 4). He stated **HB 2157** would allow the Topeka/Shawnee County Riverfront Authority to transition to quarterly meetings as opposed to monthly meetings as currently required in the Act. Included in his testimony is a copy of the Executive Summary of the Kansas Riverfront Master Plan.

Since there were no other conferees present to speak to **HB 2157**, Chair Schwartz closed the hearing on **HB 2157**.

At this time, Chair Schwartz drew the committee's attention to **HB 2032 - An Act concerning cities; relating to annexation**. Ken Wilke presented a balloon amendment to **HB 2032** and noted the changes therein. Questions from the committee followed.

Representative Mah moved the committee adopt the balloon amendment for **HB 2032**, seconded by Representative Otto. The motion carried.

Representative Mah moved the committee recommend **HB 2032** as amended, favorably for passage, seconded by Representative Holmes. Motion carried with two opposing votes.

Chair Schwartz drew the committee's attention to **HB 2084 - Cities; annexation; strip annexations restricted**. Ken Wilke, staff, presented an overview of **HB 2084** and explained changes within the bill. Questions from the committee followed.

Representative Otto moved, seconded by Representative Slattery, to recommend **HB 2084** favorably for passage. Motion carried with one opposing vote.

Chair Schwartz drew the committee's attention to the three bills which had had a hearing today--**HB 2125, HB 2155, and HB 2157**.

It was moved by Representative Mah, seconded by Representative Garcia, to recommend **HB 2125** favorably for passage. The motion carried.

It was moved by Representative Gordon, seconded by Representative Goico, to recommend **HB 2155** favorably for passage. The motion carried.

It was moved by Representative Holmes, seconded by Representative Gordon, to recommend **HB 2157** favorably for passage. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Representative Sharon Schwartz, Chair