

Senate Elections Committee
3:00 p.m. rm.107 State Capitol

Monday, March 7, 2005

Members present:

Fischbach

Higgins

Hottinger

Kleis

Limmer

Marko

Marty

Pariseau

Scheid

Wiger

Senator Wiger called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Agenda item #1 S.F. 960-Jungbaeur: Food or beverages distribution at public parades as fair elections campaign practice.

Senator Jungbaeur provided a brief overview of the bill. The bill would allow the distribution of candy by political candidates at parades.

Senator Marko moves that S.F. 960 be recommended to pass and placed on the Consent Calendar.

Senator Kleis moved to amend Page 1, after line 22, insert: "Sec. 2 [Effective Date]. This act is effective the day following final enactment." Amendment adopted.

Senator Marko renewed her motion that S.F. 960 be recommended to pass as amended and be placed on the Consent Calendar. Motion adopted.

Agenda item #2 S.F. 1315-Kleis: Changing requirements for precinct summary statements.

Senator Kleis outlined S.F. 1315. The bill dealt with current statute regarding precinct summary statements for state elections. This legislation changed the word "state" to "all" and required election judges to complete summary statements for all elections.

Senator Kleis moved that S.F. 1315 be recommended to pass and placed on the Consent Calendar.

Motion carried.

Agenda item #3 S.F. 1316-Kleis: Minimum polling places size and number of voting booths

Senator Kleis moved the A-1 author's amendment. Senator Kleis offered an oral amendment to the amendment on page 1, line 11, strike the new language "of the same size and design". A-1 amendment adopted.

Senator Kleis provided a brief overview of the bill. S.F. 1316 imposes various requirements on polling places relating to their area, number of voting booths, number of election judges, and signage. The bill was created in response to concerns from election judges.

Tony Kielkucki, Deputy Secretary of State, testified on behalf of the bill. He discussed technical clarifications on sign size and dimensions.

Senator Kleis moved to amend page 3, line 28-29, strike the new language after "red" and before "against." Senator Kleis moved to amend his amendment to page 3, line 28-29, strike the new language after "red" and before "against" and insert "no less than 6 inches." Motion adopted.

Kent Sulem, Minnesota Association of Townships, testified in opposition to section one and section two of the bill. His concern was that many town halls in townships would not meet the specified requirements.

Senator Kleis moved to amend page 2, line 22, after the period strike the language and page 2, line 23, strike the language up to the period. Motion carried.

Senator Marty moved to amend page 3, line 11, delete the word "general". Senator Marty amendment adopted.

Dorothy McClung, Director of Property Records and Revenue for Ramsey County, testified in opposition to the bill. She testified that of the 104 precincts in St. Paul fifty of them would not meet the requirements as laid out in the bill.

Joe Manksy, Ramsey County Elections Manager, testified in opposition to the bill. He discussed the difficulties in finding adequate polling locations especially those that would meet the space requirements as outlined in the bill. His recommendation was to delete section 1 of the bill.

Senator Wiger recommended S.F. 1316 be laid over for further consideration.

Agenda item #4 S.F. 1317-Kleis: Provisions certain conduct in or near polling places

Senator Kleis moved the A-1 amendment. The A-1 amendment Motion carried.

Senator Kleis briefly described his bill. S.F. 1317 expanded the zone around a polling place within which a person is standing or soliciting from 100 feet to 500 feet. It also changes the point of measurement from the entrance to the polling place to the property line around the building where the polling place is located.

Tony Kielkucki, Deputy Secretary of State, testified in support of the bill. He also spoke in support of a citizen "safe zone" where individuals asking whether people have voted could not be within 200 feet of voters.

Senator Higgins moved to strike the new language in lines 22-25 in the A-1 amendment.

Senator Kleis opposed the amendment.

Senator Higgins amendment was adopted.

Beth Fraser, Public Policy Director, Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action (MAPA), testified that the adopted amendments addressed MAPA's concerns. MAPA worked with several other organizations on election protection issues. She discussed how coalition organizations dealt with polling procedures.

Senator Kleis moved to pass S.F. 1317 to the floor as amended. Motion not adopted.

Senator Wiger adjourned the meeting at 4: 43 p.m.

Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: Elections Committee
 Date: 3/7/05 Day: Monday Start Time: 3:00 pm

Agenda

Bill # (or Topic)	SF 960
Author	Jungbauer
Short Descriptor	Food distribution or beverage distribution at public parades as fair election campaign practice
Action(s)	passed and sent to consent calendar
Bill # (or Topic)	SF 1315
Author	Kleis
Short Descriptor	Changing requirements for precinct summary statements
Action(s)	passed sent to consent calendar
Bill # (or Topic)	SF 1316
Author	Kleis
Short Descriptor	Minimum polling places size and number of voting booths
Action(s)	laid over
Bill # (or Topic)	SF 1317
Author	Kleis
Short Descriptor	provisions certain conduct in or near polling places
Action(s)	failed

01:34:46

Senate Elections Committee

Chair: Chuck Wiger
Monday, March 7, 2005
3:00 p.m.
Room 107 Capitol

Agenda

1. S.F. 960- Jungbauer: Food or beverages distribution at public parades as fair elections campaign practice
2. S.F. 1315-Kleis: Changing requirements for precinct summary statements
Testifying: Tony Kielkucki, Deputy Secretary of State
3. S.F. 1316-Kleis: Minimum polling places size and number of voting booths
Testifying: Tony Kielkucki, Deputy Secretary of State
4. S.F. 1317-Kleis: Provisions certain conduct in or near polling places
Testifying: Tony Kielkucki, Deputy Secretary of State

Beth Fraser, Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action
(MAPA)