

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on March 8, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Garrett Love – excused
Steve Morris - excused

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Woody Moses, Managing Director, Kansas Aggregate Producers Association (KAPA)
Chris Wilson, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA)
Ron Hein, Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association (KRHA)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken opened the hearing on **HB 2205--Continuing the use of weights and measures standards.**

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, reviewed **HB 2205** stating that this bill would remove the sunset date of June 30, 2011 on the exception to standards and requirements for mechanical vehicle scales.

Ms. Lawrence offered to take questions.

Woody Moses, Managing Director, Kansas Aggregate Producers Association, appeared in support of **HB 2205 (Attachment 1)**. He said that during the 2001 legislative session an amendment was passed to K.S.A. 82-202 granting a limited tolerance variance for aggregate scales from the tolerance requirements mandated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The current variance was authorized with a sunset by the 2001 Legislature and renewed by the 2005 Legislature with a June 30, 2011 sunset date.

Mr. Moses took questions from the Committee.

The hearing on **HB 2205** was closed.

Chairman Taddiken opened the hearing on **HB 2282--Lodging inspections and food safety fees.**

Ms. Lawrence reviewed **HB 2282**. She said this bill would amend the Food Service and Lodging Act of the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). This bill would consolidate the Food Service Inspection Reimbursement Fund and the Food Inspection Fee Fund into the Food Safety Fee Fund. **HB 2282** also addresses the inspections of lodging establishments.

Ms. Lawrence offered to take questions.

Chris Wilson, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), testified in support of **HB 2282 (Attachment 2)**. She said the fee increases proposed would generate about \$75,000 which would allow the KDA's Food Safety and Lodging program to inspect all newly licensed facilities and investigate complaints involving lodging establishments.

Ms. Wilson stood for questions.

Erick Wisner, Food Safety Policy Director, KDA, answered questions from the Committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 8, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Ron Hein, Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association (KRHA), presented neutral testimony on **HB 2282**. (Attachment 3). He said the KRHA supports the regulation of lodging facilities by the KDA and understands the fees to provide this legislation will need to come from their industry. Mr. Hein stated that the KRHA has traditionally not supported fee increases, but have no objection to this proposed legislation and the included fee adjustments.

Mr. Hein took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken closed the hearing on **HB 2282**.

Chairman Taddiken noted that the Committee had received a map showing the Kansas population growth and loss by county provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (Attachment 4.) This information had been requested by a committee member in a prior meeting.

Senator Teichman made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22 Committee meeting. Motion was seconded by Senator Abrams. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.