



Since 1894

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Senator Dan Kerschen, Chair

From: Dean Klahr, Director of Stockgrowers Division, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: **SB 345, AN ACT concerning animals; relating to transporting animals into the state; authorizing the animal health commissioner to assess a civil penalty for violations relating thereto; amending K.S.A. 47-607c and repealing the existing section.**

Date: February 11, 2022

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing over 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to share our views on SB 345. The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) appears neutral on SB 345 today. However, I want to be clear that KLA supports the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Division of Animal Health in its efforts to protect the domestic livestock population of Kansas from infectious and contagious diseases.

Currently, all animals entering Kansas shall be accompanied by an official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued within 30 days prior to movement into Kansas unless moving to a slaughter facility or livestock market. For example, specific diseases of concern to Kansas cattle producers are Trichomonas, Brucellosis, and Bovine Tuberculosis. CVI's serve as documentation to prove that animal owners have followed the proper animal health protocols, based off the animal's intended use, prior to entering the state. This process is key in safeguarding our domestic livestock herds and mitigating the risk of a disease outbreak occurring in this state.

With that said, KLA does not have direct policy on penalty levels for violators of current animal health law. As a result, KLA staff reached out to our volunteer leaders for guidance until we can confirm our policy among membership and the KLA Board of Directors at our legislative meeting on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Per the guidance received from our volunteer leaders, we have worked with the KDA and requested amendments to lower the potential criminal penalty from a Class A to a Class C misdemeanor, limit the criminal penalties to only be applicable in cases where the violator has intent or knowledge, and to limit civil penalties to a per load basis without regard to the number of days involved with each violation. Although we cannot take an official position on the bill at this time, KLA encourages the Committee to adopt these amendments and advance the bill through the legislative process. At times, KLA's policy process does not always coincide with the legislative calendar, and we regret that this is one of those instances. However, I am confident that KLA will have an official position we can share with the legislature after February 16.

Thank you for allowing KLA to address the committee on this issue that is important to the livestock industry. KLA stands ready to work with the legislature and KDA to ensure our state remains protected from infectious and contagious diseases.