

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 1:30 P.M. on March 22, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Gary Hayzlett- excused  
Representative Mitch Holmes- excused  
Representative Patricia Kilpatrick- excused  
Representative Lynne Oharah- excused  
Representative L. Candy Ruff- excused  
Representative Clark Shultz- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research  
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Betty Caruthers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Secretary Michael Hayden, KS Dept. Of Wildlife & Parks  
Mike Good  
Bill Sneed

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Grange who presented a report of the Sub-Committee which met to discuss **SB 578 - Prohibiting possession of regulated animals except in limited circumstances; requiring registration; regulated animals include lions, tigers and bears.** The following members were involved in the Sub-Committee; Representative Grange, Representative Hayzlett, Representative Flaharty, and Representative Mah. The Sub-Committee voted to pass out favorably the amendment to the Committee. (Attachment 1)

Representative Grange summarized the amendment and reviewed Conferees who were in favor of the amendment. Those reported to be in favor included Jerry Carson, Labette County Commissioner, Michael Coker with the Topeka Zoo, Secretary Hayden and Kevin Jones with the Department of Wildlife & Parks. Mike Good is also in favor of the amendment but in addition he would like to limit any contact with the public by these animals. Representative Grange also reported that the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks was ready to work on rules and regulations which will be needed with the bill. Questions related to the USDA/insurance compliance satisfied the Department of Wildlife & Parks. There were questions regarding what would happen to animals in facilities which do not get certified and therefore cannot remain open. It was noted that there is a process in place to allow for the removal of the animals. Representative Grange reported concerns from Bill Sneed from a neutral stance who is representing the Goddard facility. Concerns were regarding training for handlers in facilities as well as no physical contact other than for the trained handlers and veterinarian people. Discussion was had regarding the possibility of adding an amendment which would set a weight limit for animals which could be handled.

Chairman Myers recognized Secretary Hayden who spoke in favor of moving the bill forward as amended by the Sub-Committee. The question remains as to physical contact and under what conditions that might be allowed.

Chairman Myers recognized Mike Good who thanked the Committee for their work yet expressed caution about the handling of animals at certain weight limits and concern for messages this might send to children regarding safety.

Chairman Myers recognized Bill Sneed who stated he supports the amendments by the Sub-Committee.

Representative Grange moved to accept the Sub-Committee report and the balloon amendments as presented.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 22, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Seconded by Representative Morrison.

Motion carried.

Representative Mah moved for an amendment stating that a dangerous animal weighing more than 15 pounds would have no contact with the public and an animal weighing 15 pounds or less, incidental contact only with a person possessing the animal, the designated handler or a veterinarian. This would include no non-native venomous snake contact. Seconded by Representative Grange.

Motion carried.

Representative Treaster moved to pass **SB 578** out of Committee favorably as amended. Representative Grange seconded.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers requested that Representative Grange carry the bill.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 1:55.