

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on March 7, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Stephen Morris- excused

Committee staff present:
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Dr. Dirk Hanson, Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners
Gary Reser, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association
Duane Simpson, Kansas Association of Ethanol Producers

Others attending:
See attached list.

Hearings on **HB 2835—Disciplinary action, assessment of penalties and confidentiality under the Kansas veterinary practice act** were opened.

Dr. Dirk Hanson testified in support of **HB 2835** (Attachment 1). He stated that in Section 1, KSA 47-830 “violation of a board order” would be added as grounds for disciplinary action under the category of unprofessional conduct. He also said that revisions to Section 2, KSA 47-839 would add waivers to the confidentiality privilege.

Gary Reser spoke in favor of **HB 2835** (Attachment 2). He said the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association has reviewed the changes in this bill and has endorsed the proposed legislation. The KVMA believes that the changes in this bill would allow them to operate more efficiently and better serve veterinarians and the citizens of Kansas.

Staff had a question for Dr. Hanson regarding the increase of the potential penalty applicable to violations from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Dr. Hanson stood for questions from staff and Committee members. It was noted that the penalty to violations in this bill have been increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Hearings on **HB 2835** were closed.

Hearings were opened on **HB 2833--licenses, definitions and registration under the Kansas veterinary practice act**.

Dr. Hanson offered testimony in favor of **HB 2833** (See Attachment 1). He said the bill would remove the definition of “veterinary medical specialist” and “education commission for foreign veterinary graduates (ECFVG).” In Section 3 it is revised so the Board would have re-examination authority. Changes in Section 4 concerning the auditing of veterinary premises were suggested.

Gary Reser offered written testimony in favor of **HB 2833**.

Dr. Hanson further explained the amendment to **HB 2833**. This amendment concerns the unlawful practice of veterinary medicine by a person without a license in certain cases and a definition of “companion animal.” He provided an amendment to the bill for the Committee to consider (Attachment 3).

Dr. Hanson stood for other questions from the Committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 a.m. on March 7, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Hearings were closed on **HB 2833**. Final action will be taken on this bill tomorrow.

SB 543--Creation of Kansas ethanol council was discussed. Duane Simpson reviewed suggested amendments and explanations (Attachment 4). One amendment would expand the membership of the Kansas Biofuels Council to include biodiesel as well as ethanol. Another suggested amendment was a technical cleanup to change the word "board" to "council" in the remaining sections of the bill. Another amendment would reduce the state funding to 1/8 of a cent per gallon of biofuels produced to approximately \$250,000. Another amendment offered was to allow the council to exist after July 1, 2009, but sunset the state support.

Mr. Simpson stood for questions.

Jere White, Kansas Corn Growers Association, had e-mailed comments on **SB 543** (Attachment 5) to Committee members and had no further comments.

Further discussion was held on **SB 543**.

Senator Schmidt made a motion to table **SB 543**; seconded by Senator Lee. The Committee discussed the motion.

Senator Bruce made a substitute motion to pass the bill with the amendments, but remove the funding. Senator Pine seconded the motion. No action was taken on the motion.

Senator Huelskamp moved the approval of the minutes of the February 21 and March 1 Committee meetings. Seconded by Senator Bruce. Motion carried.

As the meeting proceeded past the time of adjournment, Chairman Taddiken adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

The next Committee meeting is March 8, 2006 in Room 423-S.