

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 P.M. on March 20, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Broderick Henderson- excused

Committee staff present:

Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research

Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office

Betty Caruthers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Umbarger

Senator Goodwin

Secretary Michael Hayden - KS Department of Wildlife & Parks

Mike Good

Rhonda Good

J. Clay Thomas

Jerry Carson - Labette County Commissioner

Jim Fouts - Tanganyika Wildlife Park

Pat Quinn - ZAOA

Tom & Allie Harvey - Safari Park

Mitchell Papish

Matt Baker

Others attending:

See attached list.

Motion by Representative Oharah, seconded by Representative Long for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism held on March 15, 2006 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers opened hearing on **SB 578 - Prohibiting possession of regulated animals except in limited circumstances; requiring registration; regulated animals include lions, tigers and bears.**

Chairman Myers requested Dennis Hodgins, Research, to give a summary explanation of **SB 578** to the Committee.

Chairman Myers recognized Senator Umbarger for testimony as a proponent. Senator Umbarger gave a summary as to what this bill will do if passed. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Myers recognized Senator Goodwin who also testified in favor of the bill. She stated that it is her belief that Kansas is long overdue to regulate the ownership and possession of certain animals within the state. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Myers recognized Secretary Michael Hayden who stated that further regulations are appropriate and that the Department of Wildlife & Parks is in favor of the provisions contained in **SB 578**. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Myers recognized Mike Good, a parent of Haley R. Hilderbrand, a teenager who was attacked and killed by a tiger in Mound Valley, Kansas on August 18, 2005 as she was to have her senior picture taken. He spoke to the dangers of exotic animal ownership and how to protect the public. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Myers recognized Rhonda Good, also a parent of Haley R. Hilderbrand. She is also in favor of strict regulations that need to be enforced so that no other family has to deal with what her family has been through. (Attachment 5)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 20, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Myers recognized J. Clay Thomas as a proponent. He shared a story of his wife and a scout troop posing for pictures at a zoo when his wife was attacked by a Siberian Tiger. Within a week after this incident the assistant scout leader passed away following chest pains after the attack. Mr. Thomas' wife has since passed away from cancer on the same side of the body as the attack. (Attachment 6)

Chairman Myers recognized Jerry Carson who spoke to what he sees as "the inadequacy of present Kansas Law and regulations regarding the ownership, handling and care of exotic animals." He also spoke to his belief that the members of ZAOA, the Zoological Association of America, should not be exempt from the bill. (Attachment 7)

Written testimony only from proponents included:

Mark Koch (Attachment 8)

Susan Metzger (Attachment 9)

Randall Allen (Attachment 10)

Josephine Martell (Attachment 11)

Chairman Myers recognized those who appeared neutral on the bill starting with Jim Fouts who testified as to his primary goal of public safety. He wants to see the Zoological Association of America and the American Zoo and Aquarium Association both exempt from all provisions of the Bill. He presented several recommendations for amendments for the Bill. (Attachment 12)

Chairman Myers recognized Pat Quinn testified as to what the ZAOA is and what its' membership includes. Mr. Quinn is in agreement with some regulation but does not want to "obstruct individual rights and free-market commerce and enterprise". (Attachment 13)

Chairman Myers recognized Tom and Allie Harvey who stated they are in favor of **SB 578** with the balloon amendments outlined by Mr. Fouts. (Attachment 14)

Under the neutral position there was one written only testimony submitted by Mike Cargil. (Attachment 15)

Chairman Myers called for opponents to the bill. The first to testify was Mitchell Papish who supported the "spirit" of the bill but discussed changes he'd like to see put forth. (Attachment 16)

Chairman Myers recognized Matt Baker who presented concerns he saw with the bill in its' present form regarding cage requirements, exemption of ZAOA zoos and liability insurance requirements. (Attachment 17)

Chairman Myers closed hearing on **SB 578** and assigned a Sub-Committee to meet for further discussion of this bill. The following members were assigned to the Sub-Committee:

Representative Grange - Chair

Representative Oharah

Representative Morrison

Representative Mah

Representative Flaharty

The Committee was adjourned by Chairman Myers at 5:20.

A follow-up Committee meeting will be held after the assigned Sub-Committee holds their meeting.