

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:30 P.M. on March 20, 2007, in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Knox - excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office

Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Swaffar, Director, Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau

Mike Miller, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Randy Smith, Kansas Bowhunter's Association

Leland Queal, Retired Wildlife Biologist, Pratt

Others attending:

See attached list.

It was noted that, committee minutes of March 5, 6, and 7, 2007, were sent electronically and, by consensus, were approved as written on March 16, 2007.

Hearing on Substitute SB 266 - Big game permits

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department, reviewed the amendments approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee regarding the authority given to the Department of Wildlife and Parks to issue non-resident deer permits and extending the sunset provision dates. He said the Senate added an increase of not more than 50% to the total number of permits issued.

Steve Swaffar, Director of Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), spoke as a proponent of **Substitute SB 266**, stating that KFB supports the extension of the sunset provision to June 30, 2009, and that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks continues to address the revision of statutes containing the issuance of transferable permits (Attachment 1).

Mike Miller, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, speaking as an opponent of the bill, said that an extension of the sunset date so far in advance could hamper the allocation of non-resident permits. With no provision for changing the non-resident transferable permit process, stakeholders, landowners, and hunters will not see the recommended changes (Attachment 2).

Randy Smith, Kansas Bowhunter's Association (KBA), speaking as an opponent of the bill, indicated two areas KBA cannot support. He said the 50% increase in non-resident rifle tag allotment is unnecessary, since, during the two previous hunting seasons, not all of the rifle tag permits were purchased. Mr. Smith espoused a sunset date of June 30, 2007 (Attachment 3).

Mr. Leland Queal, a retired wildlife biologist from Pratt, Kansas, holding a neutral position on **Substitute SB 266**, said the original concept of the bill would return deer harvest management to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (Attachment 4). He advocated keeping the current 20% amount of resident permits to limit over-harvesting the deer population, and stood firm on establishing equity in the application process. Mr. Queal also recommended having an interim study committee to obtain further information leading to a stronger, more definitive proposal in the 2008 legislative session.

Mr. Whitney Damron, Kansas Sport Hunting Association submitted written testimony in favor of **Substitute SB 266** (Attachment 5).

The Chairman closed the hearing on **Substitute SB 266**.

The Chairman called for consideration of **SB 146** - Solid waste; waste tire management fund. Representative

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 P.M. on March 20, 2007, in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Svaty requested hearing a report from the sub-committee regarding **SB 146**. Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office, briefed the members regarding the technical amendments, the striking of erroneous words and punctuation, and the amount of revenue created by processed waste tire tonnage fees Attachment 6). Mr. Thompson provided details on grant reductions from the present 75% to 50% for the start-up costs of recycling tires. He said a sunset date, June 30, 2010, is added to provide time for further development and use of recycled waste tires. Mr. Thompson explained that a one-dollar fee is collected for each ton of tires, which is then paid to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and eventually is credited to the Waste Tire Management Fund.

Representative Svaty moved to pass the amendments, with the exception of New Section 2. Representative Palmer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Powell moved to have a conceptual amendment stating, "No entity can be given more than one grant." Representative Flora seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the number of grants given; Mr. Bill Bider, Director of the Bureau of Waste Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, explained the new grants are subsidizing the purchase of new products made from recycled tires. Representative Flora withdrew the second to the motion. Representative Powell restated the conceptual amendment to limit the time to a three-year period for grants to be awarded to local governments. Representative Flora seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Representative Svaty moved to pass the bill favorably as amended. Representative Grange seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Chairman called for consideration of **Substitute SB 89** - Concerning the Republican River and disposition of moneys recovered from certain litigation; establishing the Republican River water conservation projects fund. Representative Aurand moved to have a conceptual amendment. Representative Svaty seconded the motion. Jason Thompson reviewed the sections' revisions (Attachment 7). Further explanation given by Representative Aurand and subsequent discussion of the committee members resulted in clarification of the one-third/two-thirds distribution of money. The motion passed.

Discussion continued on **Substitute SB 89**. Representative Holmes moved to have the first dollars of the cost of litigation with Nebraska, whatever the amount is, be put aside in a litigation fund. Representative Moxley seconded the motion. Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department, explained that in the compact compliance and enforcement fund, litigation is one of the items for which the money can be used. The motion carried.

Representative Aurand moved to pass **Substitute SB 89**, as amended. Representative Holmes seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2007.