

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on March 26, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Matt Todd, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Senator Hensley, 19th District
Kathleen Williams, Librarian USD 454, Burlingame Elementary School
Robert Hutchins, 4th grade student, USD 454, Burlingame Elementary School
Jordan Herrick, 5th grade student, USD 454, Burlingame Elementary School
Emilie Thomas, 6th grade student, USDA, Burlingame Elementary School

Others attending:
See attached list.

Senator Bruce moved the approval of the February 13, 19, 20 and 25 minutes; seconded by Senator Lee. Motion carried.

The hearing opened on SB 667–Wheat designated as official state crop.

Senator Hensley, 19th District, said in the tradition of naming the sunflower the state flower and the meadowlark as the state bird, this bill would designate wheat as the official crop of Kansas. Students from Burlingame Elementary School are here to support SB 667.

Kathleen Williams, Librarian, USD 454, Burlingame Elementary School, distributed some information on wheat (Attachment 1) that was sent to Senator Hensley with the names of the students who support this bill. She introduced the students who were visiting the Committee.

Robert Hutchins, 4th grade student, USD 454, Burlingame Elementary School, gave testimony in favor of SB 667 (Attachment 2). He said that wheat is an important source of the state's economy so it should be the state crop of Kansas.

Jordan Herrick, 5th grade student, USD 454, Burlingame Elementary School, spoke in support of SB 667 (Attachment 3). She said that since Kansas produces more than 1/5 of the U.S. wheat crop it should be named the state crop.

Jordan took questions from the Committee.

Emilie Thomas, 6th grade student, USD 454, Burlingame Elementary School, testified in favor of SB 667 (Attachment 4). She said that since Kansas is the wheat state and breadbasket of the world, wheat should be the state crop.

Emilie answered questions from the Committee.

Dana Peterson, Producer Policy Specialist, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers (KAWG), presented written testimony in favor of SB 667 (Attachment 5).

The hearing on SB 667 was closed.

Discussion was held on SB 690–Republican river and Arkansas river, disposition of litigation moneys. Joe Fund, Chief Fiscal Officer, Kansas Water Office (KWO), prepared three flow charts (Attachment 6) to

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 26, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

illustrate the Republican River damages' disposition of litigation funds as discussed in Conference Committee Report on House Substitute for SB 89-Republican river, disposition of litigation moneys. SB 690 and HB 2984 –Republic river disposition moneys.

Dave Barfield, Chief Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) answered questions from the Committee.

Mr. Fund took questions from the Committee.

Senator Francisco moved that language be added to SB 690 to clarify how the funds received from the settlement are distributed , seconded by Senator Huelskamp. Motion adopted.

Senator Morris made a motion that language be changed in SB 690 to clarify that the reserve account shall not be reimbursed for expenses used for monitoring, seconded by Senator Lee. Senator Morris withdrew the motion, Senator Lee withdrew the second.

Senator Francisco made a motion to delete any reference to the Arkansas River in SB 690, seconded by Senator Morris. Motion passed.

Chairman Taddiken said that HB 2210 –Kansas veterans affairs; service grant programs, requiring a performance audit was referred to the Agriculture Committee from the Federal and State Committee.

Chairman Taddiken will call a meeting at the rail to either pass SB 690 out or roll into another bill.

Meeting adjourned.