

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer at 8:30 a.m. on January 19, 2007, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Chairman Carolyn McGinn-excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Judy Holliday, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others attending:

See attached list

Vice Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer noted that the Committee members had received two handouts, one on maps of dams discussed in the January 18 meeting (Attachment 1), and the other a letter from Secretary Michael Hayden, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, on the disbursements by the Kansas Farmers and Hunters "Feed the Hungry" program (Attachment 2).

Vice Chairman Ostmeyer asked for bill introductions. Senator Francisco introduced two bills. The first bill is a KDHE waste tire grants adding language for local units of government to pay up to 75% to purchase and install playground equipment from recycled Kansas tires. She asked for discussion on the issue. Senator Francisco made the motion to have the bill introduced by the Committee, seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion passed.

The second bill introduced by Senator Francisco deals with siting restrictions for solid waste which was discussed last year and is again being brought before the Committee for discussion. Susan Kang, Policy Director for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, clarified a change in the language on this year's bill regarding the distance a municipal landfill can be from a water source. The distance is now one-half mile, not the one-mile distance that was a previous cause for concern. Senator Francisco made a motion to have the bill heard by the Committee, seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion passed.

Vice Chairman Ostmeyer asked for the agency overview by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (Attachment 3). Secretary Roderick L. Bremby introduced Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff: Ron Hammerschmidt, Director, Division of Environment; Dr. Duane Boline, Director, Division of Health and Environmental Laboratories; and Susan Kang, Policy Director.

Secretary Bremby told the Committee the agency's mission was to protect the health and environment of Kansas by promoting responsible choices. KDHE is the largest regulator in state government, and is looking at compliance rather than being punitive. The agency is made up of three operating divisions: the Health Division, Environmental Division, and Health and Environmental Laboratory Division. These are supported by two additional divisions, the Office of the Secretary and the Division of Management and Budget.

In brief, Division of Health duties include: assists communities in providing services for public health, primary care and preventive healthcare; investigates health outbreaks; promotes immunizations; credentials healthcare workers; registers and stores vital statistics such as birth and death certificates; maintains databases for providing data to policymakers, healthcare providers, and the public; inspects and licenses child care and health care facilities; inspects restaurants to prevent food borne illness; and provides resources to improve preparedness under the Federal Homeland Security program.

Secretary Bremby told the Committee that there is a projected \$3.4 million reduction in the budget between this year and 2008, but the recommended budget will allow the agency to continue operating.

Some areas which require Department of Health and Environment response include remedial water treatment

CONTINUATION SHEET

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with priority based on risk to the public; environmental responses to Wolf Creek incidents; illegal dumps; solid and hazardous wastes; water discharge from pharmaceutical companies, dairies, hog operations, etc.; how to address subsidence issues in areas of Kansas where maps show mining and salt water wells; efforts to reduce ozone levels in Kansas City; and contamination from methamphetamine labs. Senator Francisco commended KDHE for their cleanup efforts.

Senator Huelskamp asked Secretary Bremby to provide regular detailed updates on KDHE.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next committee meeting will be on January 25.