

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carol E. Beggs at 3:38 p.m. on March 7, 2001 in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. John Ballou - Excused
Rep. Larry Campbell - Excused
Rep. Bill Mason - Excused
Rep. Laura McClure - Excused
Rep. Don Myers - Excused

Committee staff present: Renae Jefferies - Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila - Legislative Research Department
Carol Doel - Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Nancey Harrington
William E. (Charlie) Wasylk
C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Beggs called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

SB139 - Relating to liability for domestic animal activities

Senator Derek Schmidt was unable to testify in person, however, he did send written testimony as a proponent for **SB 139**. The background of the bill states persons participating in domestic animal activities in Kansas have been presumed by law to assume the risk inherent in such activities. Chairman Beggs asked the revisor to make a clarification to the committee. Renae Jefferies, Revisor explained that it amends the assumption of risks to include bison in the definition of domestic animals and has changed as a whole to add any creature of the ratites, including, but not limited to ostriches, emus and rheas.

Senator Schmidt's testimony states further that "perhaps not obvious on its face, this proposal is about economic development. Tourism - particularly prairie tourism - is an industry with enormous potential for Southeast Kansas." (Attachment 1)

Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, Division of Travel and Tourism introduced an attachment in support of **SB 139**. It is the feeling of the Division that amending the language in this bill allows for greater flexibility for any farmers and ranchers wanting to diversify their farming activities to allow others onto their property for leisure or recreational purposes. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Beggs closed the hearing on **SB139**.

Representative Osborne made a motion that we pass SB 139 out favorably and place it on the consent calender. This motion was seconded by Representative Ethel Peterson. Motion passed.

SB 155 - Designating US highway 75 as the combat wounded veterans highway

Senator Nancey Harrington appeared before the committee to offer her testimony in support of **SB 155**. The Senator distributed a copy of a map designating the area to be named **The Combat Wounded Veterans Highway**. (Attachment 3)

CONTINUATION SHEET
MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE - Room 122-S Statehouse at 3:35 p.m.
March 7, 2001

Written testimony was submitted by Senator Derek Schmidt in support of **SB 155**. The portion of US Highway 75 from Lyndon south to Oklahoma already has in place signage denoting it as the approximate route of the Opothle Yahola Historic Trail. The signage marks the path of a historic journey by American Indians, who migrated south along the rivers of Southeast Kansas en route to the Oklahoma territory.

Senator Schmidt says that it is essential that the existing signage not be displaced as a result of the passage of **SB 155**, and he requests that the committee ask this question directly of the appropriate officials and to create a record in the legislative history of this measure and it is not intended to cause or authorize removal of the existing signage that denotes the Yahola Trail. (Attachment 4)

William E. (Charlie) Wasylyk, representing The Military Order of the Purple Heart, presented as an proponent for **SB 155** asking for recognition for combat wounded veterans (of all wars) by naming of a highway in Kansas. Mr. Wasylyk states that as people see the signs honoring the veterans along the highway, it will remind them of the high cost of freedom. (Attachment 5)

Chairman Beggs closed the hearing.

Representative Margaret Long made a motion that the bill be passed out favorably and put on the consent calender. This was seconded by Representative Levinson. Motion passed.

SB 280 - Designating a part of U.S. highway 24 as the Charles Sheldon traffic way

Appearing before the committee as a proponent for **SB 280** was C.E. "Sonny" Scroggins, a member of the "What Would Jesus Do Memorial Committee?" This is a group of individuals dedicated to the preservation of Faith in the world, and are determined to encourage and foster continued Faith Movements in Kansas. They are requesting that a portion of Highway 24 be designated as the Charles Sheldon Traffic Way in honor of the author of "In His Steps". (Attachment 6)

Discussion and questioning was opened by Chairman Beggs.

Representative Margaret Long proposed an amendment to **SB 280** adding a new section 2. This would state as follows: *Whenever any federal act or the regulation by any federal agency shall require that the secretary of transportation shall perform engineering services in connection with a federal aid project pertaining to the construction or reconstruction of any county road or bridge, the secretary shall not charge the county a fee for such engineering services which exceeds an amount equal to 10% of the county's share of the construction cost of such project.* (Attachment 7)

Representative Jeff Peterson made a motion to override the amendment and pass the bill out clean and place it on the consent calender. Motion was seconded by Representative Palmer. The motion passed, however, there was discussion as to whether **SB 280** could be put on the consent calender due to some nay votes.

Minutes of the February 19, 2001 meeting of Committee on Tourism were distributed for approval. Representative Aday made a motion to approve the minutes as read. This motion was seconded by Representative Ethel Peterson.

There were no announcements.

Chairman Beggs adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m. March 7, 2001.