

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Thursday, February 19, 2015, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Basil Dannebohm – Excused

Representative Susie Swanson – Excused

Committee staff present:

Joanna Wochner, Legislative Research Department

Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes

David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Ralph Richardson, Dean of Veterinary College, Kansas State University

Wendee Grady, Staff Attorney, Department of Agriculture

Sarah Byrne, Department of Agriculture

Gary Reser, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association

Justin Smith, DVM, Department of Agriculture

Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association

Tim Stroda, Kansas Pork Association

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2305 — Creating an institutional license to practice veterinary medicine.

David Wiese, Revisor, provided an overview of **HB2305**, explaining that the bill adds two new sections to the Kansas veterinary practice act to create a new license designation known as the institutional license ([Attachment 1](#)). The bill establishes the application fee for the license. On or after July 1, 2016, any person who practices veterinary medicine on client-owned animals in direct association with such person's employment at a school of veterinary medicine within this state must be a licensed veterinarian or possess an institutional license.

Mr. Wiese responded to questions from the Committee.

Wendee Grady, Staff Attorney, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2305** ([Attachment 2](#)). Ms. Grady explained that individuals currently practicing veterinary medicine on client-owned animals at a school of veterinary medicine within the state are exempt from licensing requirements and therefore outside of the purview of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners. **HB2305** proposes the creation of an institutional license.

Ms. Grady responded to questions from the Committee.

Sarah Byrne, Executive Director, Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE), appeared before the

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Committee in support of **HB2305** ([Attachment 3](#)). Ms. Byrne noted that a problem arises when KBVE receives complaints alleging violations of the Practice Act by non-licensed veterinarians, practicing veterinary medicine through their employment at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Ms. Byrne responded to questions from the Committee.

Written testimony in support of **HB2305** was received from Dr. Roger Fingland, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University ([Attachment 4](#)).

Dr. Ralph Richardson, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University (KSU), responded to questions from the Committee noting that KSU holds insurance which would address any malpractice suit brought against a veterinarian working for the college.

There were no other conferees to appear before the Committee either as proponents, neutrals or opponents.

The hearing on **HB2305** was closed.

Hearing on: HB2364 — Removing sunset on the veterinary training program for rural Kansas.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided a brief overview of **HB2364**, explaining that the bill would remove the sunset on the veterinary training program for rural Kansas currently to sunset on July 1, 2016 ([Attachment 5](#)).

Dr. Ralph C. Richardson, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University (KSU), appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2364** ([Attachment 6](#)). Dr. Richardson explained that current statute is an incentive for new veterinary graduates to practice veterinary medicine and serve the state's rural citizens and the livestock industry. It authorizes KSU to enter into agreements with a maximum of five first year veterinary students each year to receive a forgivable loan of \$20,000 per year to support their veterinary education. In return, the students are required to complete the KSU veterinary degree program, participate in advanced rural veterinary medical training and practice full time in a rural Kansas community.

Dr. Richardson responded to questions from the Committee.

Gary Reser, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, presented testimony in support of **HB2364** ([Attachment 7](#)). Mr. Reser noted the importance of the program in serving rural Kansas communities and its farmers and ranchers with veterinaries.

Justin Smith, DVM, Deputy Animal Health Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, presented testimony in support of **HB2364** ([Attachment 8](#)).

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Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, presented testimony in support of **HB2364** ([Attachment 9](#)). Mr. Beam noted that the Kansas Livestock Association members and Board of Directors were briefed on the bill and lends support to any reasonable effort that encourages veterinarians with large animal health training to locate in rural Kansas.

Tim Stroda, President-CEO, Kansas Pork Association, presented testimony in support of **HB2364** ([Attachment 10](#)). Mr. Stroda noted the importance of having veterinarians present in rural Kansas if a disease breaks out such as the recent outbreak of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus in hogs.

All conferees responded to questions from the Committee.

Written testimony in support of **HB2364** was received from Tera Barnhardt, DVM, Collingwood Animal Hospital ([Attachment 11](#)).

Discussion & action on: HB2305 — Creating an institutional license to practice veterinary medicine.

*Representative Lusker moved to suspend the rules and proceed with discussion and action on **HB2305** and **HB2364**. Motion seconded by Representative Boldra. Motion accepted without objection.*

*Representative Lusker moved to recommend **HB2305** favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Victors. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

Discussion & action on: HB2364 — Removing sunset on the veterinary training program for rural Kansas.

*Representative Concannon moved to recommend **HB2364** favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Dierks. Motion accepted without objection.*

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2015.