

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Monday, February 15, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Joe Seiwert – Excused

Committee staff present:

Joanna Dolan, Legislative Research Department

Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department

Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Approval of Minutes

Representative Boldra moved to approve the minutes of February 1, February 2, February 3, February 4, February 8 and February 9. Motion seconded by Representative Rahjes. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Report - Multiyear Flex Accounts

As required by statute, the "Report on Implementing Multi-Year Flex Accounts" by David Barfield, Chief Engineer, Department of Agriculture, was distributed to the Committee ([Attachment 1](#)).

Subcommittee reports on: HB2479 — Amendments to the Kansas noxious weed law.

Chair Schwartz announced that the Subcommittee report on **HB2479** is not ready and will be delayed until tomorrow, February 16, 2016.

Discussion & possible action on: HB2554 — Amending the Kansas pet animal act.

Chair Schwartz opened the discussion on **HB2554**.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided a brief explanation of the bill.

A document from Department of Agriculture in response to Committee questions concerning **HB2554** was distributed to the Committee ([Attachment 2](#)).

*Representative Sloan moved to recommend **HB2554** favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Lusker.*

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 3:30pm on Monday, February 15, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

Representative Sloan offered an amendment to **HB 2554** and explained the amendment ([Attachment 3](#)).

Responding to questions from the Committee, Representative Sloan stated that the original bill was more restrictive than USDA standards; however, upon further discussion with the Department of Agriculture, language that was originally removed from the bill was added back into the bill. Representative Sloan noted that it is felt that the reinstatement of the language will eliminate confusion.

Dr. Bill Brown, Department of Agriculture, responded to the Committee question noting that the agency tried to make the language simple and more readable; however, it appeared that it caused more confusion, therefore, the agency agrees with reinstating the language.

*Representative Sloan moved to adopt the amendment to **HB2554**. Motion seconded by Representative Lusker. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

*Representative Sloan moved to recommend **HB2554** as amended favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Lusker. Motion carried on a voice vote.*

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2016.