

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Schwartz at 3:30pm on Monday, March 14, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Tom Sloan – Excused  
Representative John Wilson – Excused

Committee staff present:

Joanna Dolan, Legislative Research Department  
David Wiese, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Shirley Jepson, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Brad Smoot, Bayer Health  
Randy Stookey, President, Kansas Agricultural Alliance  
Mary Mertz, Riley County Farm Bureau  
Chad Bontrager, Department of Agriculture  
Allie Devine, Coalition of Scale Companies

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

**Hearing on: HR6045 — Urging the federal government to require the use of sound science in evaluating crop protection chemistries and nutrients.**

Chair Schwartz opened the hearing on **HR6045**.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, provided a brief explanation of **HR6045**; noting that it is a simple resolution that urges the federal government to require the use of sound science in evaluating crop protection chemistries and nutrients. Ms. Scott explained that a resolution only needs to pass one chamber to be placed in statute.

Brad Smoot, on behalf of Bayer Health, appeared before the Committee in support of **HR6045** ([Attachment 1](#)). Mr. Smoot explained that Bayer not only produces pharmaceuticals for human consumption, it develops and markets products for pets and livestock producers as well as row crop farmers. Mr. Smoot noted that **HR6045** does nothing more than urge the government to use sound science-based principals in the study and regulation of agricultural technologies and to avoid "unnecessary" restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies.

Randy Stookey, President, Kansas Agricultural Alliance, appeared before the Committee in support of

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**HR6045** ([Attachment 2](#)). Mr. Stookey explains that **HB6045** furthers Kansas Agricultural Alliance's goal of ensuring reasonable and science-based environmental and agricultural regulations, and advances the public policy of promoting a productive agricultural industry in our state.

Mary Mertz, Riley County Farm Bureau on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau, appeared before the Committee in support of **HR6045** ([Attachment 3](#)). Ms. Mertz noted that Kansas Farm Bureau strongly supports sound science in all aspects of government regulation, public and private research and agricultural production.

Written testimony in support of **HR6045** was received from:  
Greg Kissick, Kansas Corn Growers Association ([Attachment 4](#)) ;  
Mike O'Neal, Kansas Chamber ([Attachment 5](#)) .

There were no neutrals or opponents to appear before the Committee.

Chair Schwartz closed the hearing on **HR6045**.

### **Hearing on: HB2712 — Updating provisions relating to weights and measures.**

Chair Schwartz opened the hearing on **HB2712**.

Natalie Scott, Revisor, explained that **HB2712** would amend current law for standardizing weights and measures, including fees for services at the Metrology Lab from a per hour basis to a per piece basis. The bill would also increase the license application fee. Ms. Scott explained the sections of the bill.

Chad Bontrager, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2712** ([Attachment 6](#)). Mr. Bontrager noted that the Department has worked closely with the industry in developing the legislation. Further, he explained that the first part of **HB2712** addresses the fee structure at the metrology lab, co-located at Forbes Field along with the Division of Water Resources Topeka Field Office; the second part of **HB2712** addresses unlawful acts and some clean-up; the third part deals with the license application fee that service companies pay annually to do business in Kansas; and the fourth part addresses the continuing education requirements for licensed technical representatives.

Mr. Bontrager responded to questions from the Committee.

Allie Devine, on behalf of the Coalition of Scale Companies, appeared before the Committee in support of **HB2712** ([Attachment 7](#)). Ms. Devine indicated that the Coalition of Scale Companies has been working with the Department of Agriculture over the past year on legislative changes and other issues of funding for the metrology laboratory. Ms. Devine stated that the bill is designed to stabilize the funding stream of the weights and measures division and to provide the scale service companies some long awaited regulatory relief.

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Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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

Chairwoman Schwartz closed the hearing on **HB2712**.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2016.