

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE, LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Hutton at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, February 03, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Annie Tietze – Excused
Representative Will Carpenter – Excused

Committee staff present:

Linda Herrick, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department
Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Amy Blankenbiller, Director of Government Affairs, National Elevator Industry
Norman Martin, Schindler Elevator Corporation
Eric Rogers, Business Manager for the International Union of Elevator Constructors, Local 12
Kevin Sullivan, National Coordinator, Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund
Randy Stookey, Kansas Grain and Feed Association

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

There were no bill introductions.

Hearing on: HB2356 — Providing for public safety with regard to elevators.

Chairperson Hutton opened the hearing. Chuck Reimer, Revisor, gave an overview of the bill. This is a comprehensive bill that addresses all aspects of elevator construction, installation, annual inspections both in businesses and residential. It also includes lifts, escalators, moving walkways, and dumbwaiters. The bill creates an Elevator Safety Review Board with authority to make rules and regulations.

Amy Blankenbiller, Director of Government Affairs, National Elevator Industry, provided proponent testimony ([Attachment 1](#)). She noted Kansas is one of two states that do not have statewide elevator and escalator codes. Only Topeka and Wichita currently require elevator mechanics to meet a minimum level of knowledge, skills and abilities, and to be licensed to work on conveyances. The bill requires the elevator board to set fees on industry contractors and mechanics in amounts sufficient to cover the costs of the program.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, February 03, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

Norman Martin, Schindler Elevator Corporation, gave proponent testimony ([Attachment 2](#)). He provided some information on Ohio's inspection program and the method of calculating the annual revenue needed to operate the program and associated fees to generate the revenue.

Eric Rogers, Business Manager for the International Union of Elevator Constructors, Local 12 provided proponent testimony ([Attachment 3](#)). He cited tragic elevator accidents that have occurred across Kansas and firmly believes elevator inspections are needed statewide.

Kevin Sullivan, National Coordinator, Elevator Industry Work Preservation Fund (EIWPF) provided proponent testimony ([Attachment 4](#)). He stated that at this time, Kansas does not have an elevator safety law, and the state should take steps to ensure that elevator personnel are properly skilled and that elevator equipment is properly installed. This bill incorporates the key standards and codes developed by experts in the field.

Randy Stookey gave opponent testimony ([Attachment 5](#)). He represented the Kansas Grain and Feed Association, Kansas Cooperative Council, and the Renew Kansas Association. The commercial grain warehouse industry is heavily regulated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) through a special program called LEP. Annual inspections by OSHA occur for man-lifts and other conveyances. Various other inspections are conducted monthly, bi-annually, and annually each with associated costs and fees. This bill is duplicative and costly to the grain warehouse and ethanol processing plant industries, and it is recommended they be exempt from all provisions of the bill.

Written only opposing testimony was provided by:

Greg Krissek, Kansas Corn Growers Association ([Attachment 6](#))

Raylen Phelon, Kansas Soybean Association ([Attachment 7](#))

Nicole Proulx Aikens, League of Kansas Municipalities ([Attachment 8](#))

The hearing on this bill was closed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.