

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE, LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Les Mason at 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 17, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Stan Frownfelter – Excused
Representative Ruiz substituted for Ranking Minority Leader, Representative Frownfelter
Representative Burroughs substituted for Representative Ruiz

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kansas Representative Willie Dove District 38

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Discussion & action on: HB2634 — Enacting the alternative crop research act.

Vice-Chairperson Mason asked the Committee's desire, and the bill was discussed for possible action.

In response to a question raised by Representative Claeys during the hearing on this bill, attached is an answer from Paul Isham ([Attachment 1](#)) that was furnished to Committee members.

Chuck Reimer, Revisor, gave an overview of the bill noting that the purpose of the bill is to give the Department of Agriculture the authority to start an industrial hemp research program in conjunction with educational institutions of our state.

Representative Claeys moved, seconded by Representative Carpenter, the bill be passed.

Representative Claeys had an amendment ([Attachment 2](#)) which Chuck Reimers explained. He noted that this amendment replaces the current bill and provides for a more simplified bill, which is less costly. The amendment contains wording from the Federal Farm Act for the Kansas Department of Agriculture to establish an agricultural pilot program to cultivate industrial hemp on no more than 12 acres in conjunction with the educational institutions. The 12 acres would be located in three four acre sites, in western Kansas, in the Wichita metropolitan area, and northeast Kansas.

Representative Claeys added that the 13 pages in the previous bill are gone and replaced. The state has not grown hemp in 180 years, the research available is from Kentucky, and the pilot program will help

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development at 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 17, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

to understand the soil and climate for growing hemp in Kansas.

Representative Claeys moved a substitute motion, seconded by Representative Carpenter, to strike the contents of **HB2634** and insert the contents of **HB2329** as proposed in the balloon amendment (Attachment 2). The motion carried.

Representative Tietze asked about the fiscal note for this bill. Reed Holwegner said since the product is now **HB2329**, the bill will be addressed by the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means Committees, and at that time, the fiscal effects of the bill will be addressed.

In response to a question, Representative Claeys replied that the 12 acres is adequate to understand the climate and soil in the three regions.

Representative Burroughs asked if the Kansas Congressional delegation were supportive. Representative Dove replied the senior U.S. Senator is in favor of this bill, and was one of the proponents of the farm bill. He added the federal bill was enacted so states did not go against the federal laws.

Representative Kleeb noted with all of the work put into the bill and given the importance of this for economic development, this bill needs to go to the Senate soon to give it an opportunity to become law.

Representative Kleeb moved, seconded by Representative Hutton, the contents of the amendment be inserted into **SB106** to become **House Sub. for SB106** and the bill be passed. The motion passed.

Representative Hutton explained **SB106** is available for use because the contents had been inserted into **SB108** in 2015.

Adjournment

With this being the last Committee meeting, Chairperson Hutton thanked the members and staff for all the hard work.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.