

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & SMALL BUSINESS

Held in Room 423-S, at the Statehouse at 10:00 a.m. a. m./p. m.,  
on Tuesday, March 24, 1981, 1981.

All members were present except: Senator Joe Norvell (Excused)

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 10:00 a.m. a. m./p. m.,  
on Wednesday, March 25, 1981, 1981.

These minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, March 24, 1981, 1981 were  
considered, corrected and approved.

  
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Chairman

The conferees appearing before the Committee were:

Dr. Dave Bennett, Kansas Livestock Association  
Dr. Vernon White, Syracuse Chmn., Sale Barn Committee for  
Ks. Vet Med Assn. and  
A sale barn inspector  
Dr. Wilbur Jay, LaCrosse Member: KLA and Kansas Vet Sale  
Barn Committee  
A sale barn inspector  
Dr. Gerald D. Gurss, Kansas Livestock Commission

Senator Kerr called the meeting to order and stated the committee  
would be hearing House Bill 2516.

HOUSE BILL 2516

Dave Bennett, KLA, was the first proponent of this bill. Mr. Bennett stated historically they have been opposed to any increases in the vets fees but they feel since there has been no increase since 1970 they are certainly entitled to an increase which is set out to be not less than \$.07 per head, with a minimum per diem of \$25.00. The current rate is \$.05 per head. The Kansas Livestock Association supports this bill.

Dr. Vernon White, a veterinarian from Syracuse, presented his testimony which he distributed (See Attachment "A" to original minutes). After reviewing the contents thereof, Senator Montgomery questioned whether any state has a maximum charge per head. Dr. White stated he did not know; however, the four states he cited--Oklahoma, Missouri, Colorado and Nebraska do not have a maximum charge. Dr. White felt the veterinarians have been operating at a loss in accordance with the 5¢ per head fee and he feels they should be permitted to collect an increase in the fee.

Dr. Wilbur Jay, of La Crosse, testified he feels since the fees have not been increased since 1970 and prices and wages have changed for nearly everyone since that time, the veterinarians are entitled to the increase proposed in this bill. Senator Montgomery questioned the matter of competition in sale barns being located close together; should one barn charge less per head than another it would lead to unfair competition. Dr. Gerald D. Gurss stated there was agreement between the 90 public livestock barns and they definitely want to stay together in the fees charged. Senator Montgomery stated he was not in favor of leaving the top maximum open. Dr. White stated the amount of time involved at a small barn sale compared to a large one is quite different and there should be the option of negotiating with the sale barn owner for the total fee charged.

(MORE)

CONTINUATION SHEET -2-

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Dr. Gurss felt the sales barn owner should not have to bear an increased charge for each inspection--that the seller should. Too, he stated there is no underhandedness in the payment of the veterinarian for each inspection since it is reported.

Senator Arasmith moved, seconded by Senator Allen, that House Bill 2516 be reported favorably for passage. Senator Montgomery made a substitute motion to include a maximum of 12¢ per head, seconded by Senator Gannon. Substitute motion failed. The primary motion then carried.

Senator Reilly moved that the minutes of the Friday, March 20, 1981, committee meeting be approved, seconded by Senator Karr. Motion carried.

Senator Kerr introduced Suzanne Shaw, who is to be an Agriculture Aide to Senator Nancy Kassebaum in Washington. Miss Shaw stated she had been traveling around Kansas talking with farmers and various groups. Too, she has had the privilege of observing the legislative process and visiting various committee meetings in the State Capitol. She asked for any input the legislators or constituents would want to give her at any time.

Meeting adjourned.

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# WHITE'S VETERINARY CLINIC

VERNON M. WHITE, DVM

Box 655

Syracuse, Kansas 67878

Phone 316-384-~~7400~~<sup>5721</sup>



Chairman Kerr, members of the committee and other interested persons:

I am Dr. Vernon M. White, a practitioner from Syracuse, Kansas, the Chairman of the Sale Barn Committee for the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, and a sale barn inspector.

House Bill No. 2516 is a compromise among three organizations; The Kansas Livestock Association, the Kansas Livestock Marketing Association and ~~the~~ Kansas Veterinary Medical Association.

The last fee increase for Sale Barn Veterinary inspections went into effect July, 1970. I dont know of anyone or any other group that hasnt had a raise in that time. At that time, it was raised from 3¢ to the present 5¢ per head.

I want to give you some reference information pertaining to the fees in the four states around us:

Colorado is not standardized; by that I mean the fee is not the same at every sale. Their average would be between 10¢ and 15¢ per head. Some sales are on a minimum of \$100-150.

Oklahoma is not standardized. The fee varies from 3¢ to 20¢, and the average would be 10-12¢, with a minimum of \$50-100.

Missouri is not standardized but would average about 10¢.

Nebraska is not standardized but does have a minimum set by the state legislature as we do. The average fee is again around 10¢. The minimums are different on each class of livestock:

slaughter cattle - 8¢

stocker cattle - 10¢

slaughter swine - 8¢

breeding swine - 10¢

sheep - 8¢

horses and mules - 25¢

I have with me a resolution from the Kansas Veterinary Medical

Association in support of the sale barn veterinarians which I would like to read at this time.

In the past, there has been question about needing to change the ¢ per head charge, as the minimum fee is already negotiable. These fees are paid by two different people, the consignor pays the per head fee and the sale barn operator pays the minimum. If this law is not changed and I negotiate a raise in minimum with my barn operator, he then would pay the inspection for the consignor.

As an example, if we sell 800 head, the barn operator collects \$40 from the consignors. If I have negotiated a \$75 minimum, the barn operator then has to pay the other \$35 out of his pocket. I dont think the law ever was intended to make the barn operator pay the inspection fee for the consignor on that size of a sale. He cant collect more from the consignor as the law states " he shall collect so much per head." If he adds it on to the yardage fees that he collects, and pays the additional charges from that, we are then paying me under the table with a hidden charge. I sure dont like that.

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The  
3/24/81

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your committee on Agriculture and Small Business

Recommends that House Bill No. 2516

"AN ACT concerning public livestock markets; relating to fees for inspection of livestock; amending K.S.A. 47-1008 and repealing the existing section."

Be passed.



Chairperson

SENATE

AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

DATE Tuesday, Mar 24, 1981

PLACE: Room 423-S

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

G. H. Lewis Animal Health Dept

DAVE BENNET TOPEKA KLA

Vernon M. White Dvm Syracuse Kz KVMA

William D. Fay Dvm La Crosse Ks KUMA

Eric Lawson Shen, KS -