

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Energy and Natural Resources

The meeting was called to order by Senator Charlie L. Angell at
Chairperson

8:00 a.m./~~pm~~ on Wednesday, March 14, 1984 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Paul Hess
Senator Tom Rehorn

Committee staff present:

Ramon Powers, Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Research Department
Chris Stanfield, Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor's Office
LaVonne Mument, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Bill Hanzlick, Kansas Fish and Game Commission
Cathy Kruzic, Travel & Tourism, Kansas Department of Economic Development
Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association
John Blythe, Kansas Farm Bureau
Steve Wiechman, Kansas Association of Counties

Senator Werts moved that the minutes of the March 13, 1984 meeting be approved. Senator Roitz seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

H.B. 2623 - Fish and game: twenty-four-hour fishing licenses. Re Proposal No. 22.

Bill Hanzlick testified in favor of the bill. He said that people visiting Kansas overnight might want to fish but will not pay \$12 for a regular fishing license. This bill would give them an opportunity to fish by buying a 24-hour license at a cost of \$3.

Cathy Kruzic read her written testimony (Attachment 1) in support of the bill. She said the bill would enhance Kansas' ability to attract visitors.

H.B. 2642 - Acquisition of land by fish and game commission under license with Corps of Engineers: public hearing: legislative approval. Re Proposal No. 24.

Bill Hanzlick said this bill establishes procedures for notification and review of future Fish and Game land acquisition by license from the Corps of Engineers. He explained that the bill provides that prior to Fish and Game taking over any land, they would notify the county commissioners in the subject county or counties. A public hearing would be held at which time Fish and Game would give a description of the land and their purpose in acquiring it. After the hearing, Fish and Game could enter into a license to take over the land and would be required to transmit copies of the license with the Corps to the Secretary of State and the Legislature. The Legislature could disapprove or revoke the license by adoption of a concurrent resolution. Mr. Hanzlick said the Fish and Game Commission is not taking a strong stand either for or against the bill.

Mike Beam summarized his written testimony (Attachment 2) in support of the bill. He talked about the negative financial impact on local units of government when Corps of Engineers' land is managed by the Fish and Game Commission. He mentioned problems caused by wildlife habitat and public hunting. He said the bill would provide an opportunity for citizens to have input into the leasing process. Mr. Beam said that the Committee of Farm Organizations also supports the bill.

John Blythe testified in support of the bill. He said that the Farm Bureau has been concerned about the land and leasing policies of Fish and Game for some time.

Steve Wiechman spoke in support of the bill. He said that the counties are very interested in having notice of these leasing procedures.

Senator Gordon moved that H.B. 2642 be recommended favorably for passage. Senator Roitz seconded the motion, and the motion carried 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 a.m. by the Chairman. The next meeting of the Committee will be at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 15, 1984.

Senate Energy & Natural Resources

March 14, 1984

Name

Organization

John Blythe

Ks. Farm Bureau

~~Lois Ott~~

KDEO

Bill Hanzlick

KS Fish & Game

Steven Wiechman

KS ASSN of COUNTIES

Mike Bean

Ks LUSTK. ASSN,

Richard Mehm

Jefferson Co.

SENATE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Room 123-S

TESTIMONY

HB 2623

24 Hour Fishing License

Issuance of licenses and fees therefor

Cathy L. Kruzic, Travel & Tourism Director
Kansas Department of Economic Development

March 14, 1984

Atch. 1

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As the Director of the Travel and Tourism Division of the Kansas Department of Economic Development, I view House Bill #2623 to be an excellent method of attracting more visitors to the state by allowing the purchase of a "24 hour fishing license."

A great number of weekend visitors from neighboring states come to Kansas to enjoy our fine outdoor recreation facilities. This bill would certainly enhance our ability to attract even more. In the past, our office has received many comments from visitors in the state and potential visitors to the state indicating that they would be more willing to purchase a fishing license of shorter duration and less cost than they would to purchase an annual permit.

In making this provision, we are of course encouraging increased visitation to the state, and also encouraging visitors to stay longer through the discovery of fishing opportunities. It often happens visitors may end up at one of our states' fine lakes and parks (with no particular intention of fishing) when faced with the necessity to purchase an extended permit when really only wanting to "wet a line" and relax. Many visitors are unlikely to invest in that purchase. Given the option to purchase a "24 hour fishing license" will certainly answer some of their needs and also provide some additional revenue to the state that otherwise might be lost. It is also important to mention that this will leave a better impression in the minds of visitors of our willingness to accommodate them with special licenses instead of presenting them with the temptation to fish illegally for just that short hour or so.

The Kansas Travel and Tourism Division has encouraged the Kansas Fish and Game Commission to adopt such a fishing license for the past several years and we are extremely pleased about the cooperation between the two agencies. It appears that Kansans are surprised to learn that we attract many visitors from other states to enjoy our outdoor resources, but in fact this is a major drawing card for tourists, particularly during the summer months. The Travel and Tourism Division intends to continue to work cooperatively with the Kansas Fish and Game Commission in many activities, including the ability to make both fishing and hunting licenses more easily available to visitors. It is a goal of ours to establish a fine reputation as a state with excellent opportunities to the outdoorsman.

I strongly urge you to support House Bill #2623, allowing the issuance of "24 hour fishing licenses" for both non-resident and residents.



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Owns and Publishes The Kansas STOCKMAN magazine and KLA News & Market Report newsletter.

Statement
of the

Kansas Livestock Association

In support of House Bill 2642 relating to the
acquisition of Army Corps of Engineers Land by
the Kansas Fish & Game Commission

Presented to the

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Senator Charlie Angell, Chairman

Presented by

Mike Beam
Executive Secretary, Cow-Calf/Stocker Division

March 14, 1984

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I'm Mike Beam representing the Kansas Livestock Association. Most of you are aware that our association's members are farmers and ranchers who are involved in all segments of agricultural production. The Kansas Livestock Association supports HB 2642.

The Kansas Fish & Game Commission currently licenses (leases) over 100,000 acres of Army Corps of Engineers land in Kansas. HB 2642, which is recommended by the Special Interim Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, establishes guidelines for further acquisition of Corps-owned land by the Fish & Game Commission. Following is a brief summary of the proposed legislation.

1) Before the Fish & Game Commission enters into a license agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers, it must first notify the Board of County Commissioners of the county(s) in which the land is located.

2) The County Commissioners shall call and hold a public hearing on the proposed acquisition.

3) During the hearing, the Fish & Game Commission shall give a description of the land proposed to be acquired and the reason for acquisition.

4) After the hearing the Fish & Game may enter into the license agreement.

5) During the first 30 days of the next legislative session the Fish & Game Commission must submit to the full legislature and Secretary of State copies of each license.

Attch. 2

6) If the legislature fails to pass a concurrent resolution disapproving an acquisition, the license shall become valid.

The purpose of HB 2642 is to allow local units of government and individuals to have adequate input into any proposed acquisition and to provide an opportunity for citizens to block a license agreement when they fear the potential negative impact of such agreement.

The Army Corps of Engineers owns over 340,000 acres of land in Kansas. In many cases this land is leased directly to farmers/ranchers, marinas or other entities. The Corps remits approximately 75% of this lease revenue to counties where the land is located. The Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934 permits the granting of a license to a state for fish and wildlife management. The money received by the licensee (Kansas Fish & Game Commission) is generated from the sale of surplus crops. According to testimony presented this summer by the Kansas Fish & Game Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers, no part of these funds can be paid to the state for the benefit of the county. This is why a Fish & Game acquisition of Army Corps of Engineers land has a significant negative financial impact to local units of government.

Land managed by the Kansas Fish & Game Commission for wildlife habitat and public hunting also has a negative impact on local farmers, tenants and rural people in general. Members of the KLA who live and work near Fish & Game managed land have experienced numerous problems with wildlife damage to crops and livestock facilities. Kansas farmers and ranchers who work diligently to control highly spreadable noxious weeds are upset when Fish & Game managed land in their area is harboring such weeds. Our members near public hunting areas continually experience difficulties controlling trespassing by hunters on private land. This summer a Jefferson County Commissioner told the Interim Committee because of Fish & Game-managed public hunting land, the cost for road maintenance, law enforcement and medical services increased.

Because of the negative impact on land owners and tenants and the reduction in revenue to the counties, the Kansas Livestock Association supports the Interim Committee's recommendation that before the Kansas Fish & Game Commission may license additional Army Corps of Engineers land, there must be a more thorough review by affected individuals, local units of government and the Kansas legislature. We urge your support of HB 2642.

Fee Agency Funds

We will support legislation which would limit the contribution of state agencies to the State General Fund to an amount not to exceed \$30,000 per year.

Fish and Game Commission

We support the present statutory requirements for appointment to the Fish and Game Commission.

We believe consideration should be given to appointments of bona fide farmers to the Commission. We urge such appointments be made.

We would favor an established land-leasing policy giving first-choice farm tenancy privileges to the original landowner. Should the original landowner not desire to lease Fish and Game property, a uniform procedure for bid-basis land leasing should prevail through all Fish and Game service regions.

We are opposed to the Fish and Game Commission having the authority to use the power of eminent domain. In addition, we are opposed to the Fish and Game Commission accepting any Army Corps of Engineers land without legislative approval.

We believe the Kansas Fish and Game Commission should pay property taxes just as other owners of real property are required to do, or make an in-lieu-of tax payment to the county and school districts in which Fish and Game property is located equal to the ad valorem taxes on such property.

We recommend that the Fish and Game Commission conduct a study to determine if brucellosis, other livestock diseases, and noxious weeds are transmitted by deer, other wildlife, and livestock.

Government Organization, Responsiveness and Finance

Governmental regulation and bureaucratic involvement in the lives of our citizens must be reduced. Laws, resolutions, programs and activities of government—at any level—should be: cost-efficient, necessary, useful and effective. There should be a cost-benefit analysis of every regulatory agency.

We support the concepts of zero-base budgeting and sunset laws in order to help bring about responsive and fiscally responsible government.

Parimutuel Wagering: Constitutional Amendment

We support the right of Kansas citizens to vote on a Constitutional Amendment allowing the Legislature to provide for development, regulation, licensing and taxation of parimutuel wagering at county local-option, non-profit horse racing facilities in Kansas.

Political Campaign Financing

We are opposed to the use of public funds for financing political campaigns at any level of government.

We believe personal contributions to political campaigns should be encouraged. There should be reasonable limits placed on the amount of money any one person, business, corporation, labor union, association or political action committee may contribute to any one candidate. Such limitation should include a monetary value placed on in-kind services that may be contributed to a candidate. We believe the value of resources available to incumbents . . . staff and other privileges . . . should be included in the calculation of campaign contributions.

We believe political campaigns have become far too costly and would, therefore, support a limitation on the time allowed for conducting campaigns in order to reduce the amount of money spent.

Regulatory Reform

We believe excessive regulation represents a deterrent to the competitive enterprise system, and will eventually destroy it.

We urge the legislative branch of government, at the state level and at the national level, to legislate clearly and to legislate by statute. We deplore legislation by administrative regulation.

We hereby resolve to intensify our efforts to educate and to inform our members and all of the electorate concerning regulatory actions which tend to restrain competitive enterprise, or which tend to place in the hands of non-elected employees the development of regulations which govern our lives.