

Approved Thomas F. Walker 2. 1988
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Thomas F. Walker at
Chairperson

9:00 a.m./p.m. on Friday, February 26, 1988 in room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative Peterson

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman - Revisor
Carolyn Rampey - Legislative Research Dept.
Mary Galligan - Legislative Reserach Dept.
Jackie Brey Meyer - Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Whiteman - Bill Sponsor
Richard Westphal, Certified Gemologist
Representative Brown
Dick Vallandingham, PhD, Kansas Commission for Deaf and Hearing Impaired
Bill Fansler, 2nd Vice-President, Kansas Association of the Deaf
Ray Petty, Topeka Resource Center For The Handicapped

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order. He stated the minutes would stand approved if there were no corrections or additions at the end of the meeting.

HB 2928 - Emerald as state gemstone

Richard Westphal, Registered Gemologist, appeared in support of the bill. He said the history of gemstones is fascinating from a historical point of view. To meet the qualifications as a gemstone four requirements must be met: 1) beauty, 2) durability, 3) portability and 4) rarity. Kansas is not noted for any particular gemstone, but Mr. Westphal and other gemologists feel they would like to share the mystery and fascination of gemstones with all Kansans. (Attachment 1) Mr. Westphal had a list of states that have a state gemstone. He said the emerald ties in with the "Wizard of Oz" and the 'Emerald City' contained in that movie. He introduced Sharon Blair and Kathleen Modrcin, members of the Kansas Jewelers Association.

Representative Whiteman, one of the bill sponsors was present to speak to the bill. She stated the importance of a gemstone is significant in the historical and educational aspect. School children of 5th, 6th and 7th grade level are particularly enthusiastic and inquisitive at this age and would be interested in all state items such as the state reptile, flower and so forth.

The Committee began discussion on the bill. Several questions were asked of Mr. Westphal and Representative Whiteman.

As there was no one else present to address the bill, the Chairman announced the hearing was closed on HB 2928.

The Committee took up HB 2903, Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired.

Representative Brown led off the conferees and told how the Commission is composed. Original the Kansas Association for the Deaf was asking for 51% membership on the commission. This did not seem feasible as it would remove current members on the commission that are important. A compromise solution was attempted to try and come up with more members. This would be an additional member who would replace the person licensed to sell hearing aids as this is a different category and is a person who sells instead of services.

Representative Brown also suggested a technical amendment on the bill.

Dick Vallandingham, Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, spoke next. He has served on the board two years, but has been Chairman only six months. He said he has long supported the concept of increasing the membership. There are many areas the commission is working on now that will directly benefit the deaf and hearing impaired citizens. The commission has a very small staff. Five additional staff persons, which is over and above what the Governor recommended, will be added.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
room 522-S Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m./p.m. on Friday, February 26, 1988

Bill Fansler, 2nd Vice President of Kansas Association of the Deaf was next to testify. He stated when the Kansas Association of the Deaf had its convention last summer in Wichita, the members passed a proposal to make the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired have more deaf and hearing impaired people represented by the board. The reason this was done is that they feel only two board members are not enough to make any impact on the board. They feel they can furnish a list of qualified deaf and hearing impaired people to the governor for his consideration.

Mr. Fansler stated the deaf want to 'shed' the image of not being able to run their own affairs. They want to run their own affairs and want to become more involved in decision making. (Attachment 2)

Ray Petty, Topeka Resource Center For The Handicapped, was the last to speak on HB 2903. Mr. Petty spoke of the efforts of the agency to get people to come in and give their comments to the commission. He said they are responsive to the needs of the deaf and hearing impaired and told of efforts to help them such as fire alarms that would be a visual aid. If a deaf person needs help in a particular area, an interpreter is made available to them. Other state agencies and city entities are cooperative. After a few other comments, Mr. Petty ended his testimony.

The Chairman stated this closed the hearing on HB 2903.

The Chairman asked for action on HB 2945, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Dec. 7.

Representative Bowden moved HB 2945 be reported favorably for passage.
Representative Graeber gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The Chairman stated the committee would meet Monday; there will be a full agenda for next week.

The meeting was adjourned.

EMERALD

Kansas State Gemstone

The history of gemstones is as fascinating as the history of mankind itself. In fact most gemstones were already here waiting for their beauty to be discovered. Most were formed millions of years ago, long before humans ever stepped on earth. Earliest caveman slapped mud and slime on his chest and embedded shiny pebbles and rocks to adorn himself. Early readings in the Bible mention the existence and the importance of gemstones. To many Kings, Queens and noble rulers, gems became their most prized possessions. Wars and invasions came about due to the pursuit of their tiny works of art, we call gemstones.

Gemologists classify any material as a gemstone if it meets certain requirements. First, it must possess beauty, second, it must be durable, third, it must be portable and last it must have rarity. Of over 2,000 known minerals only about ninety are considered gemstones and of those only about twenty are well known. The most commonly known gemstones are Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, and Sapphires. The emerald being the rarest of the four is also the most expensive.

Although Kansas is not noted for any particular gemstone, as is the case of many other states, we as Kansas Jewelers feel it is important to establish a state gemstone. We feel gemstones are an important part of our earths formations, rich in history and fascination. We would like to share the many mysteries and fascination to all of Kansas.

*Attachment 1
G.O. Committee
3/26/88*

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Emerald
Kansas State Gemstone

As past president of the Kansas Jewelers Association, I ask for your consideration to establish the Emerald as the official Kansas State Gemstone. I suggest the Emerald based upon the recommendation of our organization's study group and upon the unanimous decision of a motion proposed to our Board of Directors from throughout the state. Our decisions was based upon the fact that Kansas does not have a state gemstone, and that Emerald would be the proper choice due to our state's popular connection to the film "The Wizard of Oz". As we all know in the land of "Oz" is the Emerald City. We feel that designating a Gemstone is important and that the Emerald is the proper choice.

We ask for your consideration and appreciate the opportunity to come before this committee.

Respectfully,



Richard K. Westphal C.G.,
Certified Gemologist

LIST OF STATE GEMSTONES

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Alaska | Jade |
| Arkansas | Diamond |
| Colorado | Aquamarine |
| Connecticut | Garnet |
| Florida | Moonstone |
| Georgia | Quartz |
| Idaho | Star Garnet |
| Louisiana | Agate |
| Michigan | Chlorastrolite |
| Minnesota | Lake Superior Agate |
| Montana | Yogo Sapphire & Montana Agate |
| Nebraska | Blue Agate |
| New Mexico | Turquoise |
| New York | Garnet |
| North Carolina | Emerald |
| Ohio | Ohio Flint |
| South Carolina | Amethyst |
| South Dakota | Fairburn Agate |
| Tennessee | Tennessee Pearl |
| Texas | Topaz |
| Utah | Topaz |
| Washington | Petrified Wood |
| Wyoming | Jade |

EMERALD

Treasure of Babylon

The Emerald was among the dearest treasures of the gem markets of Babylon, and today—nearly six thousand years later—this lovely stone remains one of the most valuable objects in the world.

Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, wore wonderful emeralds that came from her own Emerald mine in Upper Egypt. Nero, too, had a famous Emerald through which he was said to have watched the gladiators. In the days of the Russian Czars, Emeralds were the most prized of the Russian Crown Jewels.

One of the most interesting jewelry pieces known was created of gold and Emeralds by Spanish goldsmiths in the sixteenth century, under commission from the city of Popayan, Colombia. Six years were spent in the development of this piece, a crown containing 453 Emeralds, a votive gift from the city to the Virgin Mary.

Key to Love

Medieval peoples believed that in the Emerald's clear depths could be found the key to

happiness in love and domestic bliss. For a woman, the Emerald was thought to bring safety in childbirth. In the gem lore of Biblical times, the Emerald symbolizes kindness.

The Emerald is a variety of the mineral Beryl. It is distinguished from other Beryl by its color, which should be a green with more blue than yellow tones. One of the interesting things about the Emerald is that, unlike many other precious stones, it appears the same color in artificial light as in sunlight.

Value in Emeralds is determined by color, by flawlessness and by size. Large, flawless Emeralds are so rare and valuable as to be seldom seen even in a jewelry store. However, those of moderate size, with slight inclusions, still possess all the beauty of color that is the Emerald's principal lure.

The chief sources of Emerald are Colombia,

and Rhodesia (Sandawana). Minor sources are Russia, India, and Brazil. Currently by far the best mines in both quantity and quality are those in Colombia.

Historic Mines

The history of the Colombia mines goes back to the Incas of Peru. When the gold-seeking Spaniards plundered the temples and treasure stores of the Incas they found, in addition to gold and silver, vast wealth in Emerald gems. Eagerly they sought to learn the source of the gems, but the Incas refused to tell. No amount of threats or torture would wrest the secret from the Indians. When the Spaniards sought to find the mines themselves, they discovered the trails had been destroyed and the jungles had swallowed up the secret. Eventually one of the Indian mines was re-discovered.

In recent years different methods for making good quality synthetic Emeralds have been developed. These processes provide stones with the same mineral structure and appearance as the natural but at a price more pleasing to



the average person. The supply is increasing yearly, making it possible for more of the May-born to wear and enjoy their royal birthstone.

To truly appreciate your Emerald birthstone, it is necessary only to examine a few Emerald jewelry pieces. One of the most dazzling sights imaginable is a step-cut Emerald ring. Large Emeralds are employed also in bracelet settings, necklaces, earrings and clips. Smaller stones are used with diamonds in wedding bands, a nice idea for a May-born bride-to-be.

The man who was born in May will wear his birthstone set in cuff links, a handsome ring, or tie tac. Either yellow gold or one of the white metals is effective with glowing green gems.

A Lasting Pleasure

Truly fine jewelry will give you immeasurable pleasure throughout your lifetime, and later, will become a treasured family heirloom. Therefore, selecting the jeweler who will guide

your purchase is a matter of great importance. This jeweler should possess a comprehensive knowledge of gemology, proper instruments for determining the quality of gemstones, business experience and ability, and above all, the integrity to pass his sound judgment on to you.

American Gem Society

The roster of the American Gem Society is composed of such jewelers. The firm presenting this brochure, and all other jewelers who display the proud emblem of the American Gem Society meet these requirements. Their membership signifies the highest standing in the jewelry profession.



R. WESTPHAL

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Hutchinson, KS 67501

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EMERALD

CHOICE OF QUEENS

ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL
AS THE MAY BIRTHSTONE

House Bill 2903

Regarding the structure of Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired board.

I am Bill Fansler of Topeka, 2nd vice president of Kansas Association of the Deaf and I am representing KAD.

I am here to testify on House Bill 2903 regarding the structure of the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and hearing Impaired board.

The Kansas Association of the Deaf had its biennial convention last summer in Wichita. The members passed a proposal to make KCDHI have more deaf deaf and hearing impaired people represented in the board.

The reason was that the members felt that there are only two deaf and hearing impaired in the board appointed by the governor are not enough to make any impact in the board. There are 16 members overall. The deaf wanted to see more deaf people in the board.

The commission is actually for the deaf and hearing impaired. They feel that more qualified deaf and hearing impaired be chosen from a list provided by Kansas Association of the Deaf which can furnish a list of qualified deaf and hearing impaired people to the governor for his consideration.

The deaf and hearing impaired wan to shed "paternalistic" image, that is letting hearing people run their affairs. They want to be more involved in running their affairs.

We believe that the bill is reasonable to everybody concerned.

In conclusion, the members of the Kansas Association of the Deaf wish to see qualified deaf and hearing impaired be given more opportunity to become board members of the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express the view on behalf of the Kansas Association of the Deaf.

Bill Fansler

Bill Fansler, 2nd vice-president
Kansas Association of the Deaf
1940 Bowman Court
Topeka, Kansas 66604

*Attachment 2
H. O. Comm. 3/26/88*