

Approved February 14, 1990
Date

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Agriculture

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jim Allen at
Chairperson

10:12 a.m./p.m. on February 7, 1990 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Montgomery (excused)

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes Department

Conferees appearing before the committee: Sam Brownback, Secretary, State Board of
Agriculture

Senator Allen called the Committee to order and turned Committee attention to SB 506 and then called on staff to explain.

Staff explained that SB 506 is needed by the Revisor of Statutes office to cure a conflict in the statutes. K.S.A. 83-309 and 83-408 were amended twice in the 1989 Session and printed twice in the statutes showing both amendments. This bill repeals one set of the statutes, placing those amendments into the statutes amended in this bill.

The Chairman called for Committee action.

Senator Daniels made a motion that the Committee recommend that SB 506 be placed on the Consent Calendar. Seconded by Senator Harder. Motion carried.

The Chairman called on Sam Brownback to testify for SB 505.

Mr. Brownback gave copies of his testimony (attachment 1) to the Committee. Mr. Brownback explained that SB 505 removed some wording about election of Board Members that is no longer needed and removed the limitation on the amount of dollars that can be spent on the annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture.

During Committee questions Mr. Brownback stated that as proposed the budget for the annual meeting would be controlled through the budget of the State Board of Agriculture; it would no longer be a separate item. Mr. Brownback answered that expenses for the meeting include like audio supplies, travel expenses, lodging for some of the speakers, complimentary tickets given to invited guests to the banquet, and some other meals, and that with the budget limitation removed it would be possible to give honorariums to speakers. Mr. Brownback answered that maybe \$12,000 or \$13,000 would be budgeted for an annual meeting if the limitation would be removed. It was suggested that if the budget limitation for an annual meeting is removed for the State Board of Agriculture that other agencies may request the same.

The Chairman declared the hearing closed for SB 505 and called for Committee action.

Senator Doyen made a motion that the Committee recommend SB 505 favorable for passage. Senator Sallee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chairman called for action on Committee minutes.

Senator Daniels made a motion the Committee minutes of February 6 be approved. Senator McClure seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chairman adjourned the Committee at 10:30 a.m.

Testimony on Senate Bill 505

by

Sam Brownback, Secretary
Kansas State Board of Agriculture

to the

Senate Agriculture Committee

February 7, 1990

Senate agriculture committee

2-7-90

attachment 1

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, it's my pleasure to come before you to testify in favor of Senate Bill 505, an act concerning the Kansas State Board of Agriculture.

There are two provisions within this act. The first is to clean up some language that is no longer needed on page two regarding staggered elections of Board Members. The second item is the removing of the amount of limitation on the funds that can be expended on the Annual Meeting of Agriculture.

In 1917 the Legislature established the expenditure limitation at \$3,500. In 1931, 16 years later, this limitation was increased to \$5,500. In 1953, 22 years later, this limitation was increased to its present level of \$10,000. Since 1953, inflation and other factors have caused the cost of the Annual Meeting to go up considerably. It is a fact of life that meetings are expensive. Over the past two years, we have not paid any honorariums to speakers, yet we have had to pay travel and subsistence which is expensive as well. The Annual Meeting banquet is expensive and even though I realize some of you didn't get the best of meals, we do try to get a high quality beef meal to share with Legislators, agricultural leaders and others present.

During the 119-year history of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, the Annual Meeting has always been one of gathering together the leaders of agriculture; discussing current issues; and disseminating issues on trends, developments and the future of Kansas agriculture. That continues to remain true today. However, if we are to continue that long-term mission then we are going to need authorization to expend a greater sum for this Annual Meeting. The budget process will control how much we can spend on the Annual Meeting. We may try to work in parts of our marketing, plant health, inspection or other divisions during the Annual Meeting to highlight them and their activities to those assembled.

Simply put, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, the \$10,000 limit is an inhibition to our continuing to put on a top quality meeting for Kansans and Kansas agriculture. We ask that this limitation of expenditure be removed from enabling legislation and the cost of the Annual Meeting be controlled by the budget process instead.

I would be happy to respond to any questions.