

Approved: _____

Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Lana Oleen at 9:14 a.m. On April 29, 1996 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

Members present were: Senator Oleen, Chair
Senator Tillotson, Vice Chair - excused
Senator Jones, Ranking Minority Member
Senator Gooch
Senator Jordan
Senator Papay
Senator Praeger
Senator Ramirez
Senator Walker

Members not present: Senator Hensley
Senator Vidricksen

Committee staff present: Mary Torrence, Revisor
Nancy Wolff, Committee Secretary

Conferees Appearing Before the Committee:
Roy Berger, Wichita Greyhound Park
Steve Montgomery, Kansas Greyhound Kennel Owners Association

Senator Oleen stated that the bill before the committee **SB758** was the bill that Senator Burke appeared before the committee to request be introduced on Saturday, April 27. **SB758** relates to parimutuel racing and the disposition of certain revenues.

Roy Berger representing Wichita Greyhound Park (Attachment 1) testified in support of the bill.

Discussion was then held on the bill. The maximum amount to be paid to the breeds would be \$2.4 million. Senator Oleen stated that if the amount were less than \$2.4 million it would be possible for the deficit to be made up the next month. The money would be placed in two breeding funds which would be used at the commission discretion for the promotion of horse racing or greyhound racing. The money would be used to supplement the purses and would go back to the different breeds. The impact of the bill would ultimately fall on the EDIF.

Steve Montgomery stated that it is the position of the Greyhound Kennel Owners Association and Kansans for Parimutual that they are definitely in support of the proposal. They feel that it is critical that this bill go in tandem with **Sub for SB754**. He stated that both bills are extremely important and make an excellent package for the industries and address separate elements.

Senator Walker stated that the bill is going to help the breeds but it does not help the tracks. Steve Montgomery responded that Senator Walker had an excellent point and that is why the bills must go in tandem.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.



April 29, 1996

Testimony of Roy Berger on behalf of Wichita Greyhound Park

Dear Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

Good morning. I am Roy Berger, Executive Vice President of Wichita Greyhound Park and I thank you for the opportunity to appear in front of you once again on behalf of both Wichita Greyhound Park and Wichita Greyhound Charities.

We certainly applaud this Committee for the introduction of this legislation which provides incentives to the horse and greyhound owners and breeders in our state. However, to be totally candid with you, there needs to be racetracks operating in Kansas for the breeds to race at and this legislation, while perhaps well intended, falls way short of providing any incentives to the tracks. While the breeds may be the stars of our show, the performers need a stage and the racing facilities provide that venue. We certainly hope in this legislation a portion of it can be earmarked to the racetracks and particularly to pay for the State employees that work at the tracks such as the judges and veterinarians.

Wichita Greyhound Park is now operating in the red and we have lost money in five of the last six months and every month to date in 1996. Presently, our attendance is down 25% from the same period a year ago and our mutuel handle is off 20% from a comparable period a year ago. Each week the numbers continue to decline.

Certainly our financial picture and future, while not bright, isn't as bleak as the other two tracks in the state though we are rapidly heading in that direction. While we can't speak for the other tracks, we would hope at the very least this piece of legislation can be amended to provide some consideration for the racetracks.

Again, thank you for your time and your interest in our industry.

*Attachment 1
Senate Federal: State Affairs
4/29/96*