

Approved: 2-3-99  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on February 2, 1999 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:      Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
   Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes  
   Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dirk Hanson, D.V.M., Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Examiners  
Eileen Beltz, Public Consumer Member, Board of Veterinary Examiners  
Dr. Tom Jernigan, Large Animal Practitioner Member, Board of Veterinary Examiners  
Dr. Doug Jernigan, President-Elect, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association

Others attending:      (See Attached)

Senator Clark made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 1, 1999 meeting as submitted. Senator Huelskamp seconded. The motion carried.

Senator Clark made a motion to introduce a bill dealing with mandatory price reporting for packers. Senator Biggs seconded and motion carried.

After Chris Wilson, Kansas Seed Industry Association made a request for bill introduction, Senator Clark made a motion to introduce a bill dealing with agriculture input liens. Senator Downey seconded. Motion carried.

Hearing on:

**SB 145 - Concerning the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act**

Dirk Hanson, D.V.M., Executive Director, Board of Veterinary Examiners, testified in support of **SB 145** advising the Committee that the objectives of this bill are to make the intent of the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act clearer and more straightforward, to make its grammar simpler and more consistent, and to make its enforceability better and more effective (Attachment 1).

Eileen Beltz, Public Consumer Member, Board of Veterinary Examiners, provided testimony in support of **SB 145** stating that this bill will result in increasing the agency's ability to fulfill the purpose for which it exists, the promotion of public health, safety and welfare (Attachment 2).

Dr. Tom Jernigan, Large Animal Practitioner Member, Board of Veterinary Examiners, appeared before the Committee and gave supportive testimony for **SB 145**.

Dr. Doug Jernigan, President-Elect, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA), provided written testimony in support of **SB 145** (Attachment 3). Dr. Jernigan said members of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners met with members of KVMA Executive Board to thoroughly review the Board of Examiners' proposed changes to the Act. The KVMA subsequently published the proposed changes in the Act verbatim in four successive issues of Kansas Veterinary News. Following the publication, the proposals were again reviewed and approved for support by the KVMA Legislative Committee and Executive Board. The KVMA is feels certain that the profession is in agreement with these amendments.

Bill Brown, D.V.M., President Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners, provided written testimony in

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Room 423-S of the Capitol, 10:00 a.m. on February 2, 1999.

favor of **SB 145** (Attachment 4).

Charlotte Ronan, Executive Director, American Association of Veterinary State Boards, provided written testimony in support of **SB 145** (Attachment 5).

Staff was directed to work on some minor technical amendments.

The hearing was closed on **SB 145**.

The next meeting is February 3, 1999.

# SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 2-2-99

NAME	REPRESENTING
Charles Benjamin	Kansas Natural Resource Council Kansas Sierra Club
Gatty Clark	Ks Farm Bureau
Ray Hamrick	Kansas Farm Bureau
Craig Egan	Kansas Farm Bureau
Sandy Rogers	Kansas Farm Bureau
Ramona Carpenter	Kansas Farm Bureau
Lois Markley	Kansas Farm Bureau
Allen Cummings	Kansas Farm Bureau
Jeff Apin	Division of the Budget
Doug Jernigan, DVM	KVMA
Eileen Bell	Kansas Bd of Vet. Examiners
Tom Jernigan DVM	Ks Bd of Veterinary Examiners
David Hanson	NATI
Jessica Hanson	Wamego Middle school
MIRK HANSON	Ks Bd of Veterinary Examiners
<b>GARY RESER</b>	<b>Ks. VETERINARY MED. ASSN.</b>
KELLY MILLER	Ks FARM BUREAU - BARTON CO.
Bev Murray	Rep. Pottorff
Marty Vanier	Ks Ag Alliance

# SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	REPRESENTING
Frank Cliche	Allen Co Farm Bureau
Harry Cliche	Kansas Farm Bureau Allen Co.
Chris Wilson	KAAA
Bob Damer	K VMA - K L A
Mike Beam	Ks LVSTK. ASSN.



## Board of Veterinary Examiners

**DIRK HANSON, D.V.M.**

Executive Director

1003 Lincoln

PO Box 242

Wamego, Kansas 66547-0242

(785) 456-8781 FAX 456-8782

E-mail: hansonda@midusa.net

**Date:** Tuesday, February 2, 1999

**To:** **Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,  
Senator Steve Morris, Chairman**

**From:** Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners  
Dirk Hanson, D.V.M., Executive Director

**Subject:** **SB 145 - Revisions to K.S.A. 47-814 through 47-854,  
the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act**

Extensive amendments and additions to the Veterinary Practice Act were passed during the 1993 legislative session. As the Board of Veterinary Examiners has implemented that new language over the past five and one half years, we have identified the need for some further statutory revisions in order to make that language:

- a) clearer and more straightforward as to its intent,
- b) simpler and more consistent as to its grammar, and
- c) better and more effective as to its enforceability.

Diligent efforts by members and staff of this Board and representatives of the Attorney General's office have culminated in the improvements proposed to you today. During the last seven months, Board representatives have participated in extensive efforts to promulgate these proposed improvements. Meetings have been conducted with members the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, the Kansas Livestock Association, and the Kansas Farm Bureau. The valuable input received as a result of these communications efforts has been incorporated into the language, and is reflected in this Senate Bill.

While time does not allow discussion of every proposed revision, noteworthy examples of the accomplishment of each of the three above listed objectives can be presented.

a) An example of making the language clearer and more straightforward as to its intent is found in the revision proposed beginning on page 5, line 13 of the bill as printed in the legislative packets. As currently written, one who reads the statute might incorrectly infer that the legislature's intent was to have the board consist of seven, only "one of whom shall represent the interests of the general public". The revised language clarifies to a reader that it is the legislature's intent that the board shall consist of seven, all of whom shall serve "in order to promote public health, safety, and welfare".

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Attachment 1*

b) An example of making the language simpler and more straightforward is found in the revision proposed beginning on page 9, line 23. Currently, two statutes set forth the license applicant qualifications, and licensure requirements in a redundant, complicated fashion. The revised language more simply and straightforwardly accomplishes the same function within one statute, thereby allowing the repeal of 47-826 in its entirety.

While achieving the objective of simplicity, this revision also would establish Kansas as a leader in what will become a national trend. Like the rest of society, veterinary medicine has experienced an increase in the mobility of veterinarians and veterinary services. Fortunately, this has led to an increase in the services that can be provided to the consumer. Kansas livestock producers, for example, have benefited from the additional veterinary services they have been offered from veterinary specialty consultants who travel through a multiple state area where such specialty services are needed. Unfortunately, these specialists have experienced varying and complicated state licensure requirements that they must meet in order to attain a license in each of the states. This issue has risen to a level of national attention. In an effort to address this concern, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards has proposed, after a great deal of research and consideration, a solution. A model for one set of uniform licensure requirements that every state could adopt has been proposed. If enacted in each and every state, thereby simplifying the process for attaining a license in each state where the specialist practices, the issue would be resolved. The member boards of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards have endorsed this model. Kansas, by way of passage of this bill, would become one of the first states to enact legislation to bring about this very worthwhile resolution, while benefiting Kansans with increased availability of professional veterinary services.

c) Finally, an example of making the language better and more effective as to its enforceability is found beginning on page 8, line 19, which would add investigative subpoena language, as currently found in five other Kansas health professions regulatory agencies. This language provides a tool better enabling the informal resolution of a complaint economically, timely, and satisfactorily. Veterinary members of the both the Board of Veterinary Examiners and the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association support this language.

In summary, Senate Bill 145 would better allow the Board of Veterinary Examiners the fulfillment of its purpose as declared in the Veterinary Practice Act by providing language that is clearer, simpler, more straightforward, and more effective. Passage of this bill would result in the practice of better veterinary medicine by licensees, the enjoyment of better veterinary services by Kansas consumers, and the enabling of this agency to better promote public health safety and welfare in a more responsive and effective manner.

We ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you!



## Board of Veterinary Examiners

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**Date:** Tuesday, February 2, 1999

**To:** **Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,  
Senator Steve Morris, Chairman**

**From:** Eileen Beltz, Public Consumer Member  
Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners

**Subject:** **SB 145 - Revisions to K.S.A. 47-814 through 47-854,  
the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act**

As a Kansas public consumer of veterinary services, I wish to speak today in support of this legislation. Kansans today benefit from the implementation and enforcement of the Veterinary Practice Act, and I personally have experienced those benefits.

As a Public Consumer member of the Board of Veterinary Examiners, I wish to convey to you that passage of this bill will result in increasing the agency's ability to fulfill the purpose for which it exists, the promotion of public health safety and welfare.

Senate Bill 145 will promote Kansans being able to enjoy more complete, more affordable, and safe veterinary care of their companion animals. Further, Kansans will enjoy increased assurance that veterinary professionals are protecting and enhancing food quality assurance. In short, consumers, veterinary clients and their pets will benefit from the passage of this bill.

I ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you.

*Senate Agriculture  
2-2-99  
Attachment 2*



# KANSAS VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

816 SW Tyler, Suite 200, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (913) 233-4141

FAX: (913) 233-2534

Testimony

**Senate Agriculture Committee**

Tuesday, February 2, 1999

Room 423 South

by **Dr. Doug Jernigan**

President-elect, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association

Senator Morris and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, thank you so much for the opportunity to be here today and **testify on behalf of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association in support of S.B. 145.**

My name is Doug Jernigan and I have practiced small animal medicine in Topeka for the past 26 years. In addition, I am the current president-elect of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA), the professional Association representing more than 700 Kansas veterinarians through legislative, regulatory, educational, and public awareness programs.

Beginning in the Spring of 1998, the KVMA became aware of efforts by the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners to clarify, simplify, and make more consistent the language in the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act. These are the first proposed changes to the Act since July 1, 1993.

On June 7, 1998, members of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners met with members of the KVMA Legislative Committee and the KVMA Executive Board in Manhattan to thoroughly review the Board of Examiners' proposed changes to the Act. The proposals were scrutinized almost line by line. Dr. Dirk Hanson, executive director of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners, also spoke on the changes at the KVMA semiannual business meeting that day, which was attended by approximately 150 KVMA members.

Subsequent to that meeting, the KVMA published the proposed changes in the Act verbatim in four successive issues (July-October) of the **Kansas Veterinary News**, the official publication of the KVMA. The ultimate goal of this process was to provide KVMA members with every opportunity to express objections, suggestions, or recommendations to the Practice Act amendments and, hopefully, to reach a consensus on them within the profession.

Following publication of the last Practice Act installment in the Association's newsletter in October, the proposals were again reviewed and approved for support by the KVMA Legislative Committee and Executive Board. The KVMA is proud of this review process and pleased that it can approach the Kansas Legislature with the knowledge that the profession is in agreement with these amendments.

The Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners has made significant strides in recent years in upgrading staff, administration, and technology to cope with constantly challenging issues pertaining to food safety and companion animal medicine. The Board has conscientiously and systematically addressed the need to strengthen its regulatory, disciplinary, and enforcement authority. It has also been a

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*Attachment 3*



**DEKALB SWINE BREEDERS, INC.**  
**Veterinary Services**



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**Date:** Tuesday, February 2, 1999

**To:** **Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,  
Senator Steve Morris, Chairman**

**From:** Bill Brown, D.V.M, President  
Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners

**Subject:** **SB 145 - Revisions to K.S.A. 47-814 through 47-854,  
the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act**

As President of the Board of Veterinary Examiners, I would like to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 145. Prior business travel commitments prevent my appearance before your committee today. By way of this written testimony, however, please know that our board has carefully considered the language it proposes in this bill. Our board has actively sought input from those who might be impacted by the legislation, and have made modifications based on the input that they have provided. As a result of these communications efforts, we are confident we can expect positive effects from passage of this bill.

As the Director of Veterinary Services for DEKALB Swine Breeders, Inc., I have joined with other representatives of the livestock production industries to consider this legislation from the aspect of food animal production in Kansas. Again, please know that a careful eye has been focused on ensuring that the livestock industries can expect positive effects from passage of this bill.

I ask for your support of this legislation. Thank you.

*Bill Brown DVM*

*Senate Agriculture  
2-2-99  
Attachment 4*



# American Association of Veterinary State Boards

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Kansas City, MO 64111  
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January 29, 1999

Reference: SB 145

Senator Steve Morris, Chairman  
Senate Agriculture Committee

Dear Senator Steve Morris, Chairman,

I am writing in support of Kansas SB 145. The American Association of Veterinary State Boards has as one of its goals:

Encouraging and aiding collaborative efforts among Member Boards to simplify and standardize licensing and certification processes for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Toward that end, our organization has suggested language to streamline the process of licensure by endorsement. The Kansas Board has proposed that language in SB 145. The board is certainly to be commended for its farsighted vision in requesting the legislature to enact procedures that will simplify the process for veterinarians to become licensed by endorsement in the state of Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlotte P. Ronan".

Charlotte P. Ronan  
Executive Director

*Senate Agriculture  
2-2-99  
Attachment 5*