

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Doug Mays at 1:40 p.m. on February 5, 2002 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative John Edmonds, Excused
Representative Broderick Henderson, Excused

Committee staff present: Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Russell Mills, Legislative Research Analyst
Shelia Pearman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Mike O'Neal
Bill Ogg, Kansans State Fair General Manager
Gary Winget, Kansans for Addiction Prevention

Others attending: See attached list

Without objection, bill was introduced as requested by Representative Powell regarding cigarette retailers right to contract. [HB 2826]

Without objection, bill was introduced as requested by Representative Powell enacting the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. [HB 2797]

Without objection, bill was introduced as requested by Representative Powell requiring parental notification prior to abortion. [HB 3000]

Without objection, bill was introduced as requested by Representative Powell regarding certain liens. [HB 3001]

Chairman Mays opened the hearing on **HB 2683 - Liquor consumption permitted on state fair grounds.** Representative O'Neal sponsored this bill which would permit the alcohol on the fairgrounds often used for conventions and/or receptions at times other than the State Fair in September.

Mr. Ogg submitted written testimony from Kansas State Fair Board President Bob Barker citing the receipt of many requests for alcohol to be available at functions which has created lost rentals and lost revenue. (Attachment #1)

Mr. Winget rose in opposition of **HB 2683** inasmuch as alcohol costs the people of Kansas millions of dollars more than the revenue it could possibly create. (Attachment #2)

Mr. Longino clarified that 3.2 percent beer is already sold during the Fair.
The hearing on HB 2683 was closed.

The committee meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is February 6, 2002.

the Kansas State Fair
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BILL OGG, GENERAL MANAGER
DENNY STOECKLEIN, ASSISTANT MANAGER
LARRY ANKERHOLZ, PLANT MANAGER

January 24, 2002

Rep. Doug Mays
Chairperson, Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Subject: SUPPORT of House Bill 2683

Dear Rep. Mays:

The Kansas State Fair Board and Management request your support of legislation that would permit the State Fair Board the ability to authorize the consumption of alcohol on the Kansas State Fairgrounds at specific events and functions.

The Fair Board does not plan to allow public consumption of alcohol during the annual Kansas State Fair. Fairgrounds management currently receives many requests from non-fair renters that alcohol be allowed at their function. The inability to do so has resulted in lost rentals and lost revenue.

One major event supporting this request is the Family Motor Coach Association convention coming to Kansas in October, 2002. This event will generate over \$90,000 in on-site catering revenue, of which the Fair will receive a significant percentage. Many of these events are contingent on the availability to serve alcohol. If the Fair Board is unable to allow alcohol, these events will be taken to other sites, resulting in lost revenue to the Agency and the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Barker". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bob Barker
President, Kansas State Fair Board

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Attachment No. 1
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KANSANS FOR ADDICTION PREVENTION

K A P

FORMERLY KANSANS FOR LIFE AT IT'S BEST

Garry Winget, President P.O. Box 16774, Wichita, KS 67216, 316-618-7952

Absolutely the worst message you can send to the children and youth of Kansas is to approve the expansion of sale of alcohol at the State Fair. Alcohol, in whatever form, is the number one drug problem in Kansas and the United States. We are wise enough to make heroin, marijuana, and other "hard" drugs illegal, but the one that does the most harm, we have decided to make legal. Prohibition failed, so what we have left is prevention.

KAP is in the prevention business. We may not have the resources of the booze industry with which to make our case, but we have a case that has the best interests of Kansas at heart. We are not motivated by greed and the desire for profits. We have previously, and will continue to provide this body with data on the destruction caused by alcohol. We admit to confusion as to why rational people even consider expanding the places at which alcohol can be available. If the word "business" enters into that explanation, our point is made. How is the person that leads a young person into an alcohol addiction different than the heroin pusher in the pool hall in Hutchinson--at least that was where I was approached a few decades ago.

The state has a great deal to do with this confusion. Alcohol is a "legal" drug. It is not good. It is not safe. It has no positive qualities. It costs the people of Kansas millions of dollars more than the revenue it could possibly create. Yet, you are in the position of making it look like a good thing to my grandchildren.

Can we assume that the State Fair Board will develop policies that will safeguard the children, youth, and potential addicts of Kansas. Are the members of the State Fair Board professional fair managers, or are they amateurs? How much professional training does this Board have in addictions? How much training does this Board have in substance abuse? My father was recruited to be the Secretary of the State Fair at one point. He was a "good ol boy" but that would have been scary if he had taken the job. We were in the rodeo business and lived 12 miles north of the fairgrounds. I can remember when Kansas went wet. There were always a lot of drunks around each rodeo, but that grew tremendously when Kansas went wet. You can expect the same to happen at the State Fair.

Do they still have bumper cars at the State Fair? Please imagine a drunk mixed in with the children on that or some other ride. You will need to consider the increased of liability insurance for the fair. You will need to consider the increased need for police in Hutchinson to handle the drunk drivers during the fair. Please do not make the HB 2683 changes.

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Date 2/5/02

Attachment No. 2

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