

Approved: 3-29-06
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Dahl at 9:35 A.M. on March 10, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norm Furse, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Renaë Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
June Evans, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jeff Cooper, KTLA
Larry Karns, Kansas Self Insurers Association
Jeff Wells, Vice President, Kansas Pest Control Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Staff gave a briefing on **HB 2995**. The Department of Agriculture would give the tests and are willing to accept this responsibility. This would be under the Kansas Consumer Protection Act.

The Chairman said hearings were held on **SB 461 - Workers compensation; preexisting condition, permanent partial general disability; supplemental functional disability compensation**. Some of the conferees were asked to come back to respond to questions. The floor was opened for questions.

After discussion Representative Grange moved and Representative Sharp seconded to move SB 461 out without consideration.

Representative Schwab moved and Representative Kiegerl seconded a Substitute Motion to pass SB 461 out favorably. The motion carried.

The Chairman was in doubt if the motion carried and asked for a show of hands - 10 Yeas and 7 Nays. The members voting "No" asked to be recorded - Representatives Ruff, Burgess, Garcia, Grant, Henderson, Pauls, and Ruiz.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB 2995 - Qualifications of persons conducting certain inspections for wood destroying insects.**

Jeff Wells, Vice President, Kansas Pest Control Association, testified as a proponent to **HB 2995**. To date Kansas does not require any type of training, education or standards for persons performing wood-destroying insect inspections. Lending institutions require such inspections in most all real estate transactions. Over 20 states have implemented minimum standards for inspectors in an effort to protect consumers. Every industry should establish a minimum standard of education in order to protect the public interest and maintain industry professionalism. This bill provides wood destroying insect inspectors with that very standard (Attachment 1).

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be March 14.

COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE

Date March 10, 2006

NAME	AGENCY
Irene Ruiz	Concern Citizen
Kristin Schmitt	Sprint
JEFF WELLS	KANSAS PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION
Ellen Conrad	Roger Fincher
JUDY GARD	Sprint
Roger Fincher	Lawyer
Michael C. Hawkins	_____
Clinton E. Wilkins	Roger Fincher
Geava Hallman	
Brenda Gleason	KS w/c col.
Tommy Adams	KS w/c col.
Debbie	KS w/c Col.
MaryLise	KS w/c coalition
Dominic Kujawa	KS w/c coalition
Roger Mills	Voter
John Ostrowski	KS AFL-CIO
Wil Lehn	KS AFL-CIO
Lindsey Douglas	Hein Law Firm
Richard P. Billings	Law Office of William J. Paurauskie
Natasha Henson	Law Office of Wm. J. Paurauskie
Chad Manspeake	TELESTARS 696
Michael R. Brunk	Ironworkers 6010
Jim Heff	Kansas AFL-CIO
Callie Hill Denton	KS Trial Lawyers Assoc.

**2006 OFFICERS
& DIRECTORS**

President

Jay Besheer
Phone: 816/523-0777
Fax: 816/361-2847
Jay@gunterpest.com

President- Elect

Mike Hassman
Phone: 785/827-6750
Fax: 785/827-3231
mike@hassmantermite.com

Vice President

Jeff Wells
Phone: 620/662-3616
Fax: 620/662-0252
jeff@advancepest.com

Past President

Terry Savoy
Phone: 620/662-3616
Fax: 620/662-0252
terry@advancepest.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Ravi Sachdeva
Phone: 785/537-9188
Fax: 785/537-9271
buggin14u@aol.com

Directors:

Region I

Rick Huskey
Phone: 816/524-2710
Fax: 816/524-2810
biggspestcontrol@sbcglobal.net

Region II

Kerry Thomas
Phone: 316/681-3417
Fax: 316/722-0171
thomas.k@midwestpest.com

Region III

Larry Brungardt
Phone: 620/276-7440
Fax: 920/276-4362
brungard@pld.com

At Large

Chad Betts
Phone: 316/943-3555
Fax: 316/943-0605
Chad@bettspc.com

Executive Director

Hal Hudson
3601 SW 29th Street
Suite 116-B
Topeka, KS 66614-2015
Phone: 785/271-9220
Fax: 785/273-9200
Hal.Hudson@nfib.org



**Statement by Jeff Wells
Chairman, Government Affairs Committee
Kansas Pest Control Association
Before The House Committee on Commerce and Labor
March 10, 2006**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Pest Control Association, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to discuss House Bill 2995.

I am here today as a proponent of this bill. I have previously testified before this Committee regarding a focal point of the pest control industry - performing inspections that determine or attempt to determine the presence of a wood destroying insect infestation. Statistics of actual damage caused by termites and other wood destroying insects range from \$750 million to well over \$1 billion annually. For this reason, we feel that the services we provide for home and business owners are incredibly important.

To date, the State of Kansas does not require any type of training, education or standards for persons performing wood-destroying insect inspections or WDI's. Because lending institutions require such inspections in most all real estate transactions, over 20 states have implemented minimum standards for inspectors in an effort to protect consumers.

The standards that HB2995 describes are practical in every sense of the word. First and foremost, the consumer would be assured that the inspector performing the service would have studied biology, foraging habits and detection for all pertinent wood-destroying insects in Kansas, as well as treatment methods and guidelines. Secondly, it is a fiscally responsible bill. No extra funds would be required to establish this testing and recertification program as it already exists and is already funded. In fact, this bill could possibly increase the funds the State receives annually from licensing requirements.

The recertification program that Kansas already has in place would ensure continuing education for those performing WDI inspections. Persons wishing to recertify with the Kansas Department of Agriculture would have to attend meetings where speakers discuss items such as colony formation, identification methods, control methods, inspection essentials and other pertinent topics. The applicant would have to build seven hours over a period of three years to maintain his or her license.

At this point the only complaint I have heard from pest management professionals is that we could be creating competition for ourselves. I believe that consumers and their most valuable possession are the most important issue and that creating competition is not even a relevant argument against this Bill.

Every industry should establish a minimum standard of education in order to protect the public interest and maintain industry professionalism. This bill provides WDI inspectors with that very standard. Continuing education and training can strengthen the standard established by this bill.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to present this information. I will be happy to stand for questions.



Commerce Labor
3-10-06
Atch #1