

Approved: March 20, 2007

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 1:30 P.M. on March 8, 2007 in Room 235-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Carl Holmes- excused
Jason Watkins- excused
Sharon Schwartz- excused
Sydney Carlin- excused

Committee staff present:

Julian Efrid, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Lura Attig, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Chris Tymeson - Chief Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on: SB 157 - Requiring the department of wildlife and parks to purchase vessel liability insurance.

Chris Tymeson - Chief Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks appeared as a proponent on behalf of the Department (Attachment 1). Current statutes require the Department to carry vessel liability insurance. The current motor vehicle liability insurance policy does not cover vessels owned and operated by the Department. The Department feels it is necessary to purchase vessel liability insurance for the protection of the public and Department employees.

Rep. Aurand moved to pass SB 157 and asked that it be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Rep. Vaughn Flora. Motion carried.

Chairman Powell adjourned the meeting at 2:15 P.M.

KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

**Testimony on SB 157 regarding Vessel Insurance
To
The House Committee on Appropriations
Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee**

**By Christopher J. Tymeson
Chief Legal Counsel
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

8 March 2007

SB 157 seeks to require the Department of Wildlife and Parks to purchase vessel liability insurance. The provisions of the bill would be effective on publication in the Kansas Register. **The Department supports the provisions contained in SB 157 and requested introduction of the bill.**

SB 157, dealing with vessel insurance, was introduced on request of the Department. State law requires specific statutory authority to purchase insurance and the current motor vehicle liability insurance policy does not cover vessels owned and operated by the Department. As such, the Department feels it is prudent in light of the litigious nature of society today to purchase vessel liability insurance in order to provide better protection for the state and its employees as well as members of the public who could come into contact with state owned vessels.

The Department estimates that the cost of purchasing vessel liability insurance would be approximately \$27,000 annually.

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House Agriculture & Natural
Resources Budget Committee
Date **03-08-07**
Attachment # **1**