

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Bill Light - excused

Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Jordan Austin, Kansas State Liaison, National Rifle Association
Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards
Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator, State Board of Education
Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Bill Introduction:

Thomas Day, Legislative Liaison, Kansas Corporation Commission, (Attachment 1) spoke on a proposal to amend KSA 55-165 dealing with maintenance of information on wells. The proposed language would require operators to place identification on every well.

Representative Johnson made a motion to introduce the bill. Representative Hineman seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

No questions were asked or comments made.

Hearing on:

HB 2049 - Hunter safety orientation programs in schools.

Proponent:

Jordan Austin, Kansas State Liaison, National Rifle Association, (Attachment 2) presented testimony in support of **HB 2049**, and noted that this legislation requires Hunter Education be offered as a two-week elective course, not mandatory, in grades 6-12, at no cost to the state.

Questions were asked and comments were made by members of the Committee.

Neutral:

Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards, (Attachment 3) stated that **HB 2049** does not mandate a school district teaching a hunter safety class and suggested revised language, "No district would be required to offer such a class."

Questions were asked and comments were made by members of the Committee.

Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator, State Board of Education, (Attachment 4) reported that **HB 2049** would require the State Board of Education to develop both a hunter safety orientation program and a curriculum on hunter safety for grades 6-12.

No questions were asked or comments made.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture And Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on January 29, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Wildlife and Parks, (Attachment 5) indicated the Department of Wildlife and Parks supports the principles contained in **HB 2049** but suggested modifications be made to the language prior to passage of any bill.

Questions were asked and comments were made by members of the Committee.

The hearing was closed on **HB 2049**.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

AG. & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 1-29-09

NAME	REPRESENTING
Tom DAY	KCC
CVCotso radis	KDA
Chris Tymean	KDWP
Wayne Doyle	KDWP
J.J. Jones	Commerce
Jordan Astin	NRA
Jessica Bremer	Sen. Ostmyer
Aue Storm	SBOE



*Kathleen Sebelius, Governor
Thomas E. Wright, Chairman
Michael C. Moffet, Commissioner
Joseph F. Harkins, Commissioner*

January 29, 2009

Honorable Larry Powell, Chairman
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Statehouse, Room 142-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Powell:

The Kansas Corporation Commission would respectfully request the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to introduce the following legislation. The proposal amends KSA 55-165 dealing with maintenance of information on wells. The proposed language would require operators to place identification on every well. The information on the identification tag would be the name of the well and its location. This is an important part of building a state-wide well inventory program. (Draft language attached)

The Corporation Commission respectfully seeks introduction of this proposal through the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Should you have questions, please feel free to call me at 271-3190.

Thank You,

Thomas A. Day
Legislative Liaison

KSA 55-165. Well identification and maintenance of information on wells. (a) Any person who operates or is responsible for the care and control of any oil, gas, injection, disposal, cathodic protection, natural gas storage injection or withdrawal or CO₂ injection or withdrawal well shall place a well identification sign on or near each well.

(b) The state corporation commission shall adopt rules and regulations specifying the information to be contained on the well identification sign, and the size and location of such sign.

(c) The state corporation commission shall create and maintain a data base of all oil and gas wells in existence in this state. The data base shall include the location of each well, name, address and other information relevant to the identity of the operator of the well.



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-7400

Chairman Larry Powell
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Docking State Office Building
Room 783

Dear Chairman Powell,

January 29, 2009

House Bill 2049, introduced by this committee, will prove to be an enormous benefit to the people and the wildlife in Kansas. This legislation requires Hunter Education to be offered as a two-week elective component of the public school curriculum in grades 6-12. The National Rifle Association fully supports this legislation.

HB 2049 will encourage more of the state's children to preserve Kansas' rich sporting heritage. In particular, it will bring the benefits of hunting and firearms safety to teenagers in urban areas who otherwise might have never been exposed to proper safety procedures.

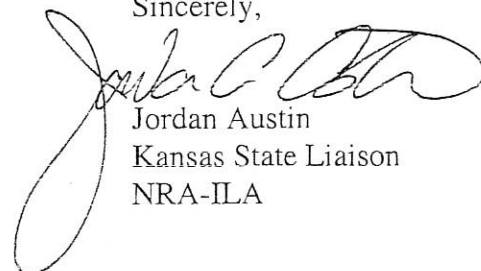
Over the last decade, the number of hunters in the Sunflower State has declined by 10 percent. Through their license fees and excise taxes paid on equipment, hunters pay the way for wildlife and habitat preservation. Regulated hunting has been responsible for flourishing populations of deer and wild turkey -- animals rarely seen in the state only a half-century ago. If hunting dies out, it is likely that wildlife will too.

Hunter Education in public schools will bring the students into the woods where they can learn about nature and engage in physical and mental exercise. They will earn a sense of accomplishment associated with providing nutritious food for themselves and their families. This taste of unadulterated pride will drive them to achieve in every other aspect of life.

Kansas' hunters generate \$607 million a year in economic activity and are responsible for maintaining 11,400 jobs throughout the state. Ensuring that there are future generations of hunters will keep this enormous economic engine steaming along in a state that cannot afford to see jobs lost.

As always, I am available at 703-267-1222 or by e-mail at jaustin@nrahq.org, should you wish to discuss the NRA's position in favor of HB 2049. Please support HB 2049 and vote for its passage out of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Sincerely,



Jordan Austin
Kansas State Liaison
NRA-ILA

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 1-29-09
Attachment 2

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

1420 SW Arrowhead Road • Topeka, Kansas 66604-4024
785-273-3600

Testimony before the
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
on
HB 2049
by
Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist
Kansas Association of School Boards

January 29, 2009

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **HB 2049**. KASB is neutral on the bill, but there are few points we would like to be taken into consideration.

The bill does not mandate a school district teaching a hunter safety class, which is aligned with our long-standing policy of curriculum decisions being ones that lie with the local board.

It does, however, mandate, the Kansas State Department of Education to create one. KASB believes, given the adverse impact state budget cuts could have on the agency and its ability to meet current needs, it makes little sense to divert the agency from meeting its core mission of working with districts to improve student achievement.

It also contains ambiguous language that could create issues for the local board. The bill might be better with revised language that simply stated "No district would be required to offer such a class."

Thank you for your consideration.

Ag & Natural Resources Committee

Date 1-29-09

Attachment 3



Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services

785-296-3871
785-296-0459 (fax)

120 SE 10th Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612-1182 • (785) 296-6338 (TTY) • www.ksde.org

January 28, 2009

TO: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

FROM: Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator
State Board of Education

SUBJECT: House Bill 2049

My name is Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator of the State Board of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to speak very briefly about House Bill 2049, which would require the State Board of Education to develop both a hunter safety orientation program and a curriculum on hunter safety for grades 6 through 12. I understand this is to be accomplished in consultation with the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks.

The State Board has not taken a position on this proposal, but likely will at the next Board meeting on February 10-11.

As you discuss this proposal, please consider the cost of such a program. Developing a curriculum doesn't occur in a couple of afternoons with a member of KSDE staff and a representative from Wildlife and Parks brainstorming what could/should be included in such a course. It involves meeting with various groups in order to be sure the program is research-based, age appropriate, and effective.

Thank you for your time.

h:fn-test:Test--2049

Ag & Natural Resources Committee
Date 1-29-09
Attachment 4

**Testimony on HB 2049 regarding Hunter Safety Orientation Programs in Schools
To
The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

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

29 January 2009

HB 2049 seeks to create a new statute related to hunter education requirements. The provisions of the bill would be effective on publication in the statute book. **The Department supports the principles contained in HB 2049 but would suggest modifications to the language prior to passage of any bill.**

The Department currently has a Hunter Education Program developed for use in the school system, called appropriately "Hunter Education in Our Schools." Individual school districts or schools themselves participate in the program on a voluntary basis. The program includes firearms safety training as an element in the course, as well as a multitude of other topics such as first aid, home firearms safety, wildlife management, archery, ethics, water safety and game laws, just to name a few. The program is taught by instructors certified by the Department and the costs are one hundred percent reimbursable.

Rather than creating a new program under this bill, which creates unnecessary and duplicative bureaucracy, potentially jeopardizes the currently existing program and could change the federal aid issues related to reimbursement, the Department suggests that an opportunity to modify the language with the proponents and implement the currently existing program into the bill.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to address the bill.