

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 March 4, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except - Representatives Powell and Hayzlett.

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:

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Vice Chairman Fund opened the meeting with explanation of **SB 51** by Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department.

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department stated **SB 51** is a technical bill that would make some amendments to a provision by containing clarifying language with respect to what type of clothing is required for hunting deer or elk. Under current law it is unlawful for a person to hunt deer or elk unless a person is wearing clothing of a highly visible nature in color. This bill separates the deer from the elk by striking "or elk" and providing new language on lines 20 and 21 of the bill.

Hearing on:

SB 51 - Clothing requirements while hunting deer or elk.

Proponent:

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Wildlife and Parks, (Department) (Attachment 1) presented testimony in favor of **SB 51**, stating this bill would amend K.S.A. 32-1015 to clarify when hunter orange is required for hunting elk or deer during elk or deer firearms seasons. Mr. Tymeson further documented that while many other seasons for other species overlap with either firearm elk or firearm deer seasons, hunters hunting the other seasons and species are not required to wear hunter orange and the Department feels that removing this restriction on deer and elk is in line with the rest of the hunting seasons across the state.

Questions were asked and comments were made.

The hearing was closed on **SB 51**.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

AG. & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 3-4-09

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jessica Bremer	intern-Sen. Ostmeijer

Testimony on SB 51 regarding Hunter (Blaze) Orange Requirements
To
The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

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

March 4, 2009

SB 51 seeks to amend one statute related to hunter orange requirements. The provisions of the bill would be effective on publication in the statute book. **The Department supports the provisions contained in SB 51 and requested introduction of the bill.**

SB 51 would amend K.S.A. 32-1015 to clarify when hunter orange is required for hunting elk or deer during elk or deer firearms seasons. Fort Riley conservation officials first approached the Department in regard to this topic in the fall of 2008. As elk and deer seasons have expanded, the statutes have not kept pace with the expanded seasons. Firearms elk seasons and archery deer seasons now overlap completely in some areas of the state and as a result, large numbers of archery deer hunters are required to wear hunter orange in those areas for a very, very small number of firearm elk hunters annually. While many other seasons for other species overlap with either firearm elk or firearm deer seasons, hunters hunting the other seasons and species are not required to wear hunter orange and the Department feels that removing this restriction on deer and elk is in line with the rest of the hunting seasons across the state.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to address the bill and the support of the Committee in making these modifications to the statute.