

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 February 3, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

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:

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture
Mary Jane Stankiewicz, COO and Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Grain and Feed Association
John Donley, Assistant General Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association
Brad Harrelson, State Director, Governmental Relations, Kansas Farm Bureau
George Blush, Dairy Program Manager, Department of Agriculture

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the meeting making reference to K.S.A. 74-555, a report on the Dairy Marketing Advisory Board, which was distributed as information to Committee members.

Chairman Powell introduced Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, to begin opening testimony on **HB 2063**.

Hearing on:

HB 2063 - Adjusting fees imposed by the secretary of agriculture for weights and measures services.

Proponent:

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, spoke in support of **HB 2063** (Attachment 1) documenting that The Kansas Dairy Marketing Advisory Board does not see a need to establish a statewide milk marketing order. The Board respectfully recommends to the Kansas Legislature that it continue to monitor issues and their impact on production practices and the milk price paid to the Kansas dairy industry. In a brief overview, Mr. Costoradis stated that sunset fees from service company licenses are scheduled to sunset July 1, 2010, and if the fees are allowed to sunset, there would be a loss of \$6,000 in revenue.

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

Neutral:

Mary Jane Stankiewicz, COO and Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA), (Attachment 2) presented testimony stating that the weights and measures fees have not been raised for the past decade but do not have sufficient feedback from its members at this time to support the bill and are appearing as neutral on the changes in **HB 2063**.

No questions were asked or comments made.

Opponents:

CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Brad Harrelson, State Director, Governmental Relations, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), ([Attachment 3](#)) provided testimony in opposition of **HB 2063**, and stated user fees in reasonable amounts are appropriate. The majority of the funding should come from State general funds; therefore, KFB is opposed to fee increases proposed in this bill.

No questions were asked or comments made.

The hearing was closed on **HB 2063**.

Hearing on:

HB 2081 - Fixing fees charged by the secretary of agriculture for milk and dairy products.

Proponent:

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture (Department), spoke in support of **HB 2081**, ([Attachment 4](#)) documenting the bill removes the sunset on dairy fees. It also increases some fees, but only to the level needed to sustain the program. The dairy inspection program is necessary to protect public health and to ensure that Kansas dairies can continue to ship their product out of state. Revoking the fee sunset and providing the modest fee increase and other provisions in the bill will ensure that the Department continue to provide valuable services.

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

George Blush, Dairy Program Manager, Department of Agriculture, also provided information to members of the Committee.

Opponents:

John Donley, Assistant General Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), spoke in opposition of **HB 2081**, ([Attachment 5](#)) specifically Section 3 of the proposed legislation. KLA is supportive of the work that is conducted by the Kansas Department of Agriculture as it relates to the dairy inspection program. However, there is potential to make improvements to the current inspection process in lieu of a fee increase. If a fee increase is determined to be necessary, KLA feels that the fees should be restructured to more accurately reflect the work that is done by the Department.

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

Brad Harrelson, State Director, Governmental Relations, Kansas Farm Bureau, ([Attachment 6](#)) presented testimony in opposition of **HB 2081**, stating KFB is unable to support user fee increases that are exorbitant (in some cases a 50 % increase) simply as a means to fund programs during budgetary and fiscal shortfalls.

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

The hearing was closed on **HB 2081**.

Action on HB 2049:

HB 2049 - Hunter safety orientation programs in schools.

A balloon amendment ([Attachment 7](#)) was distributed on **HB 2049**. Representative Light made a motion to adopt the amendment. Representative Fund seconded the motion. The balloon amendment was adopted.

Representative Lukert made a motion to offer an amendment on Line 11 on the second page where it states "certified instructor" to insert "volunteer" so it would read "volunteer certified instructor". Representative Johnson seconded the motion. On majority vote of the Committee, the amendment was adopted.

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Representative Svaty made a motion to table the bill. Representative Johnson seconded the motion. On majority vote of the Committee, **HB 2049** was tabled.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.