

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carolyn McGinn at 8:30 A.M. on February 10, 2005 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Tim Huelskamp- excused

Committee staff present:
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Gina Poertner, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:
See attached list.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carolyn McGinn at 8:30 a.m. The Chair asked if there was any discussion regarding SB 59. Seeing none, a motion was requested. Senator Bruce offered an amendment to the bill. The amendment would create two separate offenses and presents the fines for each.

Senator Taddiken asked how the range for the fines were determined. Senator Bruce stated that these fines are consistent with current criminal code as well as being consistent with fines from other states within the compact. Senator Taddiken commented further on the fines, stating that he likes the idea of the compact but feels that the penalty range is too high. Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, stated that there is a current bill in the House regarding this. Senator Taddiken offered a historical perspective and related this to driving a vehicle with a suspended license. Senator Bruce stated that the tougher fines are may deter violators. Also, these violators are using loaded guns and the probability of multiple violations is high.

Senator Francisco asked about the jail sentence. Senator Bruce stated that this is outlined in Section 2.

Senator McGinn requested that grammatical changes be made to the bill and it was confirmed by Raney Gilliland that this has been done. She followed this by asking for further discussion. Seeing none, Senator Bruce moved that the committee approve the amendment. Senator McGinn seconded the motion which was approved 5 to 2, with Senators Taddiken and Pyle voting against.

Senator Teichman made a comment that she agreed with Senator Taddiken regarding the fines. Senator McGinn reiterated that the fines presented are not too strict, that serious hunters will respect the law.

Senator Lee gave an example of a trespassing incident that this bill addresses. Chris Tymeson discussed the impact of this legislation, that it primarily affects nonresidents. Senator Francisco moved to introduce the bill. Senator Bruce seconded the motion which was approved 6 to 1, with Senator Taddiken voting against.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.