

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on February 19, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Matt Todd, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mary Glassburner, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Dale Goter, Government Relations Manager, City of Wichita
Daniel Roberts, Director of Operations, LL&G, Inc.

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken welcomed the Young Stockmen's Academy to the Committee.

The hearing continued on **SB 584–Transfer of food service and lodging duties to department of agriculture**.

Mary Glassburner, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), continued neutral testimony on **SB 584** (Attachment 1). She said there have been some great improvements in food safety. Ms. Glassburner said the Lodging Safety and Sanitation Program's goal is to ensure safe and sanitary lodging for visitors to Kansas. The Governor's reorganization allowed KDHE to focus resources and expertise on the businesses with the highest risks.

Ms. Glassburner took questions from the Committee.

Chairman Taddiken noted that the minutes for the January 22, 23, 29 and 30 have been distributed and will be approved later in the meeting.

Copies of a memorandum (Attachment 2) from Erik Wisner, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), were distributed to the Committee answering questions regarding the hearing on **SB 557–Department of agriculture; certificates of free sale; food safety**. Another handout for the Committee was from the KDA on baseline inspection and food safety (Attachment 3). Information on Alternate Energy Incentives from the Kansas Department of Commerce and was requested at the January 23 meeting (Attachment 4).

Written neutral testimony (Attachment 5) on **SB 584** from Ron Hein, Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association, was submitted.

Dale Goter, Government Relations Manager, City of Wichita, presented neutral testimony on **SB 584** (Attachment 6). Mr. Goter introduced staff members from the City of Wichita: Kay Johnson, Director of Environmental Services and Laura Quick, Food Inspection Supervisor. Mr. Goter stated that the City of Wichita is supportive of the effort to bring greater efficiencies to state government but very concerned that consumer safety be preserved.

Mr. Goter stood for questions.

Ms Johnson answered questions from the Committee.

Daniel Roberts, Director of Operations, LL&G, Inc., spoke in opposition to **SB 584** (Attachment 7). He said the size of the KDA would create a reduced or diluted focus of the inspectors. He also said the KDHE is a

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:30 a.m. on February 19, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

dedicated to food safety and should remain the primary responsibility of the inspectors.

Mr. Roberts took questions from the Committee.

Hearings were closed on **SB 584** and **SB 557–Department of agriculture; certificates of free sale; food safety.**

Senator Schmidt moved to amend SB 584 by changing the transfer effective date from July 1, 2008 to October 1, 2008, seconded by Senator Huelskamp. Motion carried.

Discussion turned to **SB 557.**

Senator moved an amendment to SB 557 which would exempt regulations of the meat and dairy plants as retail food stores, seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. Motion carried.

Senator Bruce made a motion to amend SB 557 that if after January 1, 2009 the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) rules are more stringent regarding the meat and poultry inspection program than the the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) would need to receive authorization from the Kansas State Legislature, seconded by Senator Huelskamp. Motion carried.

Senator Francisco moved to pass SB 557, as amended, seconded by Senator Huelskamp. Motion passed. SB 557 will be reported as passed out favorably as amended.

Senator Schmidt moved to amend SB 584 by adding to it a provision which would change the name of the Kansas Department of Agriculture to the Kansas Department of Agriculture and Food Safety or another appropriate name, seconded by Senator Morris.

The motion was tabled. Discussion on **SB 584** will be continued tomorrow.

Senator Huelskamp moved the approval of the minutes for January 22, 23, and 29 as written, seconded by Senator Bruce. Motion carried. The January 30 minutes will be approved as corrected.

The meeting was adjourned.