

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 3, 2004, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Dan Thimesch- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department

Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office

Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Todd Johnson, Governmental Affairs Staff, Kansas Livestock Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing and action on SB 352 - Installation of scales by service company

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 352**. Raney Gilliland explained that this bill would amend the definition of the term “technical representative” in the statute regulating those persons who service and install weighing and measuring devices. The term would be defined to mean an individual who conducts any of the following: installs, repairs, calibrates, or certifies the accuracy of a weighing and measuring device.

Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, offered testimony in support of **SB 352** introduced at the request of the Department. He explained that the purpose of the bill is to close a loophole in the current statute that allows unlicensed service companies and their technicians to install scales in Kansas. Since scale performance depends largely on proper installation, the Department believes this aspect of service work should require licensing and regulation by the Department of Agriculture’s weights and measures program. Mr. Foley and Constantine Cotsoradis, weights and measures program manager, answered committee questions. (Attachment 1)

There being no other conferees, the Chairman closed the hearing on **SB 352** and opened discussion on the bill.

Representative Dahl moved to recommend SB 352 favorable for passage and, because the bill is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Powell, the motion carried.

Hearing and action on SB 353 - Noxious weeds, sericea lespedeza

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 353**. Raney Gilliland explained that **SB 353** would amend three sections of law to eliminate the July 1, 2005, sunset provision on the authority of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to designate any county in the state a sericea lespedeza disaster area after consulting with the board of county commissioners.

Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SB 353** introduced at the request of the Department to continue the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to designate any county a sericea lespedeza disaster area after consulting with the board of county commissioners. He explained that this authority was given to the Secretary through **SB 548** passed in 2002 and that so far 14 counties have completed the process to become sericea lespedeza disaster areas. Such designation allows conservation districts to aid in the control and eradication of sericea lespedeza. The Department believes it is prudent to continue this program and remove the sunset provision.

Mr. Foley provided an update on the research and demonstration area for the control of sericea lespedeza established at Toronto State Park through the cooperation of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks as authorized in **Sub. SB 556** passed in 2002. He reported that more work is needed, and that continuing this program beyond the 2007 sunset likely will be necessary to make the research meaningful. Tom Sim and Bill Scott from the plant protection and weed control program were in attendance

CONTINUATION SHEET

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to answer technical questions. (Attachment 2)

Representative Powell distributed copies of Mark Parker's interview with Gary Kilgore, Kansas State University area agronomist for southeast Kansas, concerning his research efforts in the control of sericea lespedeza in the state. (Attachment 3)

Todd Johnson, Governmental Affairs Staff, Kansas Livestock Association, expressed KLA's support for **SB 353** and any efforts that will provide assistance in the control and eradication of sericea lespedeza.

There being no other conferees, Chairman Johnson closed the hearing on **SB 353** and opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Freeborn moved to amend SB 353 to include elimination of the sunset provision in K.S.A. 2-1334 concerning the research and demonstration project at Toronto State Park. Representative Compton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Freeborn moved to recommend SB 353, as amended, favorable for passage. Seconded by Representative Compton, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2004.