

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Derek Schmidt at 8:35 a.m. on February 18, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Downey, excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Swanson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dennis Carpenter, KS Restaurant & Hospitality Association
Jim Sheehan, Kansas Food Dealers Association
Sally Finney, Kansas Public Health Association
Jodi Mackey, State Department of Education
Valerie Cable, Day Care Connection
Coylene Speer, Independence USD 466
Jo Kalert, Columbus USD 493
Sandra Ford, Blue Valley USD 229
Sheila Brening, Hays USD 489
W. Carol Clark, retired

Others attending: See attached guest list

A hearing on **SB 124**, reorganization of Kansas Department of Agriculture and Food Safety Agencies was held.

Dennis Carpenter, President/CEO of the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association, testified that the regulatory process should be educationally oriented, and not just inspection and punishment oriented. (Attachment 1) KRHA does not feel it is appropriate to take a position on **SB 124**. He questioned: 1) the focus staying on food safety education, 2) communications between the Department of Ag, the Department of Health, local health departments and industry, 3) how existing relationships and contracts be impacted, 4) cost increases and 5) duplication of efforts or inspections.

Jim Sheehan, Executive Director of the Kansas Food Dealers Association, testified that they are very supportive of the inspection programs in Kansas as they are currently handled. (Attachment 2) They do not have a position on **SB 124**, but request that the highest quality of inspections be maintained.

Sally Finney, CAE, Executive Director, Kansas Public Health Association, testified in opposition to **SB 125**. (Attachment 3) They oppose the bill for three reasons: 1) They support the current system, 2) The scientific expertise to carry out the food safety is not available in the Department of Agriculture, and 3) It

CONTINUATION SHEET

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would be a significant public policy change, and no change should be made without serious consideration to the impact on food safety and consumers.

Leslie Kaufman, President of Kansas Agriculture Alliance, presented written testimony concerning **SB 124.** (Attachment 4).

Written testimony was entered into record from Monica Murnan, The Center, Pittsburg, KS. (Attachment 5)

Written testimony was entered into record from Joyce Ashmore, Director of Nutrition Services, Hays, KS. (Attachment 6)

Jodi Mackey, Team Leader, Nutrition Services, Kansas State Department of Education, testified in regards to **SB 124.** (Attachment 7) She said Nutrition Services does not duplicate the services provided by KDA or KDHE inspectors. Nutrition Services operates very efficiently at KSDE. She could think of no advantage for Nutrition Services' customers, the State of Kansas, or Kansas' taxpayers that would come from moving them to KDA, therefore opposed the bill. Committee discussion followed.

Valerie Cable, Director at Day Care Connection, Lenexa, opposed **SB 124.** (Attachment 8)

Coylene Speer, Food Service Director, Independence USD 466, opposed **SB 124.** (Attachment 9)

Jo Kalert, Food Service Director, Columbus USD 493, opposed **SB 124.** (Attachment 10)

Sandra Ford, Director of Food & Nutrition Services, Blue Valley USD 229, opposed **SB 124.** (Attachment 11)

Sheila Brening, Director of Nutrition Services, Hays USD 489, opposed **SB 124.** (Attachment 12)

W. Carol Clark, retired, opposed **SB 124.** (Attachment 13)

Written testimony is entered into record from Jim Murphy, Kansas Department of Health & Environment, providing additional information regarding **SB 124.** (Attachment 14)