

**HOUSE BILL No. 2480**

By Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

1-19

1 AN ACT concerning livestock; relating to marks and brands; amending  
2 K.S.A. 47-418, 47-421 and 47-426 and K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-414, 47-  
3 414a, 47-416, 47-417, 47-417a, 47-420, 47-422, 47-428, 47-446 and  
4 47-1011a and repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 47-  
5 423, 47-436, 47-438, 47-439, 47-440, 47-445 and 47-447 and K.S.A.  
6 2015 Supp. 47-418a, 47-432, 47-433, 47-434, 47-435, 47-437, 47-441,  
7 47-442 and 47-448.

8  
9 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

10 New Section 1. On July 1, 2016, the director of accounts and reports  
11 shall transfer all moneys in the livestock brand emergency revolving fund  
12 and the county option brand fee fund to the livestock brand fee fund  
13 established in K.S.A. 47-417a, and amendments thereto. On July 1, 2016,  
14 all liabilities of the livestock brand emergency revolving fund and the  
15 county option brand fee fund are hereby transferred to and imposed on the  
16 livestock brand fee fund, and the livestock brand emergency revolving  
17 fund and the county option brand fee fund are hereby abolished.

18 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-414 is hereby amended to read as  
19 follows: 47-414. As used in ~~this act~~ *article 4 of chapter 47 of the Kansas*  
20 *Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto*, except where the context  
21 clearly indicates a different meaning:

22 (a) "Person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership,  
23 association or corporation;

24 (b) "livestock" means cattle, sheep, *goats*, horses, mules or asses;

25 (c) "brand" means any permanent identifying mark upon the surface  
26 of any livestock, except upon horns and hoofs, made by ~~any acid,~~  
27 ~~chemical~~, a hot iron or cryogenic branding; and, also in the case of sheep  
28 shall include the identifying marks made by paint or tar;

29 (d) "commissioner" means the animal health commissioner of the  
30 Kansas department of agriculture;

31 (e) ~~"board" means the animal health board, created in K.S.A. 74-~~  
32 ~~4001, and amendments thereto;~~

33 (f) ~~"cryogenic branding" means a brand produced by application of~~  
34 ~~extreme cold temperature.~~

35 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-414a is hereby amended to read as  
36 follows: 47-414a. ~~(a)~~ Whenever in any statutes of this state the terms

1 "livestock commissioner," "livestock brand commissioner" or "brand  
2 commissioner" are used, or the term "commissioner" is used to refer to the  
3 livestock brand commissioner, such terms shall be construed to mean the  
4 animal health commissioner appointed by the secretary of agriculture  
5 pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5,119, and amendments thereto.

6 ~~(b) Whenever the term "board" is used in the acts contained in K.S.A.  
7 47-414 through 47-433, and amendments thereto, such term shall be  
8 construed to mean the Kansas animal health board created in K.S.A. 74-  
9 4001, and amendments thereto.~~

10 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-416 is hereby amended to read as  
11 follows: 47-416. It shall be the duty of the animal health commissioner to  
12 keep all books and records and to record all brands used for the branding  
13 or marking of livestock in Kansas. The commissioner shall receive  
14 applications for the recording of any and all brands and the commissioner  
15 shall decide on the availability and desirability of any brand or brands sent  
16 in for recording.

17 The commissioner, *with the approval of the secretary of the Kansas*  
18 *department of agriculture*, may appoint ~~an assistant commissioner in~~  
19 ~~charge of brands and such~~ brand inspectors, special investigators,  
20 examiners, deputy assistants and employees necessary, *and the secretary*  
21 *may enter into contractual agreements with the attorney general*, to carry  
22 out the provisions of ~~the acts contained in~~ article 4 of chapter 47 of the  
23 Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, ~~subject to approval~~  
24 ~~of the board.~~

25 Sec. 5. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-417 is hereby amended to read as  
26 follows: 47-417. (a) Any person may adopt a brand for the purpose of  
27 branding livestock in accordance with authorized rules and regulations of  
28 the animal health commissioner of the Kansas department of agriculture  
29 division of animal health. Such person shall have the exclusive right to use  
30 such brand in this state, after registering such brand with the animal health  
31 commissioner.

32 (b) Any person desiring to register a livestock brand shall forward to  
33 the commissioner a facsimile of such brand and shall accompany the same  
34 with the registration fee in the amount provided under this section. Each  
35 person making application for the registering of an available livestock  
36 brand shall be issued a certificate of brand title. Such brand title shall be  
37 valid for a period ending four years subsequent to the next April 1  
38 following date of issuance.

39 (c) For the purpose of revising the brand records, the animal health  
40 commissioner shall collect a renewal fee in the amount provided under this  
41 section on all brands upon which the recording period expires. Any person  
42 submitting such renewal fee shall be entitled to a renewal of registration of  
43 such person's livestock brand for a five-year period from the date of

1 expiration of registration of such person's livestock brand as shown by  
2 such person's last certificate of brand title.

3 (d) The livestock brand of any person whose registration expires and  
4 who fails to pay such renewal fee within a grace period of 60 days after  
5 expiration of the registration period shall be ~~placed in a delinquency status~~  
6 *forfeited*. The use of a ~~delinquent~~ *forfeited* brand shall be unlawful. ~~If the~~  
7 ~~owner of any delinquent registered brand the registration of which has~~  
8 ~~expired fails to renew registration of such brand within 120 days after such~~  
9 ~~brand became delinquent, such failure shall constitute an abandonment of~~  
10 ~~all claim to any property right in such brand.~~

11 (e) ~~Upon the expiration of such delinquency period without any~~  
12 ~~request for renewal and required remittance from the last record owner of~~  
13 ~~a brand or such owner's heirs, legatees or assigns, and with the termination~~  
14 ~~of property rights by abandonment~~ *forfeiture of a livestock brand*, the  
15 animal health commissioner is authorized to receive and accept an  
16 application for such brand to the same extent as if such brand had never  
17 been issued to anyone as a registered brand.

18 (f) The animal health commissioner shall determine annually the  
19 amount of funds which will be required for the purposes for which the  
20 brand registration and renewal fees are charged and collected and shall fix  
21 and adjust from time to time each such fee in such reasonable amount as  
22 may be necessary for such purposes, except that in no case shall either the  
23 brand registration fee or the renewal fee exceed \$55. The amounts of the  
24 brand registration fee and the renewal fee in effect on the day preceding  
25 the effective date of this act shall continue in effect until the animal health  
26 commissioner fixes different amounts for such fees under this section.

27 Sec. 6. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-417a is hereby amended to read as  
28 follows: 47-417a. (a) The animal health commissioner, when brand  
29 inspectors or examiners are available, may provide brand inspection.  
30 When brand inspection is requested and provided, the animal health  
31 commissioner shall charge and collect from the person making the request,  
32 a brand inspection fee of not to exceed \$.75 per head ~~on cattle and \$.05 per~~  
33 ~~head on sheep and other~~ *for all* livestock. No inspection charge shall be  
34 made or collected at any licensed livestock market where brand inspection  
35 is otherwise available.

36 (b) The animal health commissioner shall remit all moneys received  
37 under the statutes contained in article 4 of chapter 47 of the Kansas  
38 Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, ~~except K.S.A. 47-434~~  
39 ~~through 47-445, and amendments thereto,~~ to the state treasurer in  
40 accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments  
41 thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall  
42 deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the livestock  
43 brand fee fund. All expenditures from such fund shall be made in

1 accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of  
2 accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the ~~animal~~  
3 ~~health commissioner or by a person or persons designated by the~~  
4 ~~commissioner secretary of agriculture.~~

5 (c) *The commissioner is authorized to adopt and enforce such rules*  
6 *and regulations governing brand inspections as the commissioner shall*  
7 *deem necessary for the proper enforcement of the livestock laws in*  
8 *Kansas. The commissioner, brand inspectors and special investigators*  
9 *shall aid in investigations and prosecutions of violations of the livestock*  
10 *laws of Kansas and other laws of this state and of the rules and*  
11 *regulations of the commissioner.*

12 Sec. 7. K.S.A. 47-418 is hereby amended to read as follows: 47-418.  
13 Livestock may be branded in any way, or on any part of the animal,  
14 according to rules and regulations adopted by the commissioner, but  
15 livestock shall be branded so that they may be readily distinguished should  
16 they become intermixed with other herds. Livestock brands for  
17 identification of cattle to control diseases may be placed on the ~~head or~~  
18 ~~tailhead of the cattle. The letter "T" shall be used on the left jaw, by hot~~  
19 ~~iron, to identify tuberculosis reactors; the letter "V" may be used on the~~  
20 ~~left jaw, by hot iron, to identify brucellosis vaccinated cattle; the letter "S"~~  
21 ~~may be used on the left jaw or the tailhead, by hot iron, to identify~~  
22 ~~brucellosis exposed or untested test eligible animals; the letter "F" may be~~  
23 ~~used on the left jaw or the left tailhead, by hot iron, to designate heifers~~  
24 ~~from B and C states as listed by the United States department of~~  
25 ~~agriculture.~~ No applications for livestock brands for owner identification  
26 shall be issued for head, neck or tailhead locations, and the ~~head and~~  
27 ~~tailhead locations~~ location for livestock brands shall be reserved for brands  
28 for disease control purposes, except that head, neck and tailhead brands  
29 presently effective may have registration renewal upon term expirations.  
30 No evidence of ownership of brands shall be recorded except as provided  
31 in this act.

32 Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-420 is hereby amended to read as  
33 follows: 47-420. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to use any brand  
34 for branding any livestock unless such brand has been duly registered in  
35 the office of the animal health commissioner ~~at Topeka~~, except: (1) The  
36 use of a single numeral digit, zero to nine, in conjunction with the  
37 registered brand of the owner may be used for the purpose of determining  
38 the age of the branded animal, such number to be applied at least six  
39 inches from such registered brand; (2) the use of serial numbers in  
40 conjunction with the registered brand of the owner may be used for the  
41 purpose of identifying individual animals, such numbers to be applied at  
42 least six inches from the registered brand; (3) the use of numbers in  
43 conjunction with the registered brand of the owner may be used for the

1 purpose of identifying herds of the same owner for feeding or  
2 experimental purposes, such numbers to be applied at least six inches from  
3 the registered brand; and (4) the use of a digital system of branding  
4 livestock may be used for the purpose of identifying animals in a licensed  
5 feedlot. Such feedlot brand may be used in conjunction with the registered  
6 brand of the owner, such brand to be applied at least six inches from such  
7 registered brand or may be used on animals which are not branded with a  
8 registered brand of the owner, subject to conditions, limitations and  
9 requirements applicable to the use of a feedlot brand as prescribed in  
10 K.S.A. 47-446, and amendments thereto.

11 (b) The age, serial, herd or feedlot brand shall not be construed as a  
12 part of the registered brand and the use of such numeral or numerals,  
13 *whether or not such use is* in conjunction with a registered brand, shall not  
14 be unlawful. ~~Before any person uses any such serial or herd brand in~~  
15 ~~conjunction with a registered brand, such person shall first obtain a permit~~  
16 ~~from the animal health commissioner authorizing such use.~~

17 ~~(b)~~ (c) The animal health commissioner ~~is authorized~~ *may allow*  
18 *applicants to receive applications for permits for such denote on an*  
19 *application for a registered brand whether the applicant shall use age,*  
20 *serial or herd brands, and issue permits thereon. All applications for such*  
21 *permits shall be accompanied by a permit fee of \$1.50. No such fee shall*  
22 *be required if the application for such permit is submitted in conjunction*  
23 *with an original application for the registered brand or in conjunction with*  
24 *a request for renewal of registration of a registered brand may allow the*  
25 *owner of a registered brand to amend the registered brand to denote*  
26 *whether the applicant will use such age, serial or herd brands.*

27 Sec. 9. K.S.A. 47-421 is hereby amended to read as follows: 47-421.

28 (a) *Any person who willfully brands or causes to be branded any livestock*  
29 *in any manner other than as required or authorized by the laws of this*  
30 *state and the rules and regulations of the animal health commissioner, or*  
31 *any person who falsely brands or causes to be falsely branded any*  
32 *livestock in such a manner as to incorrectly designate the disease control*  
33 *identification or ownership of livestock, shall be deemed guilty of a class A*  
34 *misdemeanor.*

35 (b) Any person who shall willfully and knowingly brand or cause to  
36 be branded with such person's brand, or any brand not the recorded brand  
37 of the owner, any livestock being the property of another, or who shall  
38 willfully or knowingly efface, deface or obliterate any brand upon any  
39 livestock, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and upon conviction thereof  
40 shall be punished by confinement in the custody of the secretary of  
41 corrections for a period not exceeding five years.

42 (c) Prosecution for violation of the provisions of this section may be  
43 had either in the county where such violation occurred or in any county in

1 which the livestock may be located or found in the possession of the  
2 accused.

3 Sec. 10. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-422 is hereby amended to read as  
4 follows: 47-422. ~~(a)~~ Any brand registered with the animal health  
5 commissioner of the Kansas department of agriculture in compliance with  
6 the requirements of ~~this act~~ *article 4 of chapter 47 of the Kansas Statutes*  
7 *Annotated, and amendments thereto*, shall be the property of the person  
8 causing such record to be made. Such brand shall be subject to sale,  
9 assignment, transfer, devise and descent as other personal property.  
10 Instruments of writing evidencing the sale, assignment or transfer of such  
11 brand shall be recorded by the animal health commissioner. The fee for  
12 recording such instruments of writing shall be ~~\$15~~ *an amount not to*  
13 *exceed \$30*. Such instruments shall have the same force and effect as  
14 recorded instruments affecting real estate. A certified copy of the record of  
15 any such instrument may be introduced in evidence the same as certified  
16 copies of instruments affecting real estate. Any brand recorded with the  
17 Kansas department of agriculture division of animal health shall not be  
18 used by any person other than the recorded owner.

19 ~~(b) Any person violating any provision of this section shall be guilty~~  
20 ~~of a class C misdemeanor.~~

21 Sec. 11. K.S.A. 47-426 is hereby amended to read as follows: 47-426.  
22 The commissioner may make all the necessary rules and regulations to  
23 carry out the provisions of ~~this act~~ *article 4 of chapter 47 of the Kansas*  
24 *Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto*, and may by such rules and  
25 regulations make and provide for exceptions, in addition to those listed in  
26 K.S.A. 47-420, and amendments thereto, for the use of particular brands in  
27 conjunction with the recorded brand. ~~Any such brands shall be at least six~~  
28 ~~inches from the recorded brand.~~

29 Sec. 12. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-428 is hereby amended to read as  
30 follows: 47-428. The animal health commissioner and the commissioner's  
31 deputies ~~or~~, assistants, *special investigators, inspectors or examiners* are  
32 hereby authorized to enter upon any private lands to make any inspections  
33 necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of ~~this act~~ *or any*  
34 ~~of the provisions of~~ *article 4 of chapter 47 of the Kansas Statutes*  
35 *Annotated, and amendments thereto*. The commissioner and the  
36 commissioner's deputies or assistants may accept proof of ownership of  
37 livestock from any person in possession of animals bearing the recorded  
38 brands of another party *or any other identification* as sufficient to exclude  
39 and exempt such animals from being classified as stray animals under the  
40 provisions of ~~this act~~ *article 4 of chapter 47 of the Kansas Statutes*  
41 *Annotated, and amendments thereto*.

42 Sec. 13. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-446 is hereby amended to read as  
43 follows: 47-446. Feedlot brands may be lawfully applied to livestock

1 which are not branded with a registered brand of the owner and which are  
2 in the custody of, and upon the premises of, a feedlot operator licensed  
3 under the provisions of article 15 of chapter 47 of the Kansas Statutes  
4 Annotated, and amendments thereto, ~~subject to the following conditions,~~  
5 ~~limitations and requirements:~~ (1) Such feedlot brand shall not be  
6 construed as evidence of ownership identification; (2) ~~livestock which are~~  
7 ~~branded with a feedlot brand shall be held by the licensed feedlot operator~~  
8 ~~under quarantine upon such feedlot premises until either released by such~~  
9 ~~feedlot operator for movement to slaughter or released by the animal~~  
10 ~~health commissioner or such commissioner's authorized representative, by~~  
11 ~~issuance of a permit authorizing such livestock to be moved from the~~  
12 ~~feedlot premises for grazing purposes. Any such permit only shall be~~  
13 ~~issued if such livestock have been branded with a registered brand of the~~  
14 ~~owner of the livestock before release from licensed feedlot premises.~~

15 Sec. 14. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-1011a is hereby amended to read as  
16 follows: 47-1011a. (a) The public livestock market operator shall collect  
17 from the consignor of cattle sold at a public livestock market, where brand  
18 inspection of such cattle is requested, by the public livestock market  
19 operator, as a brand inspection fee, in addition to amounts specified in  
20 K.S.A. 47-1011, and amendments thereto, a sum of not more than \$.40 per  
21 head on all such cattle. Such amount shall be determined by the animal  
22 health commissioner. If a public livestock market operator requests brand  
23 inspection at a public livestock market pursuant to this section, the public  
24 livestock market operator shall contract with the animal health  
25 commissioner to perform such brand inspection services.

26 (b) ~~Where cattle consigned to, or sold at, such public livestock market~~  
27 ~~originate in, and have brand inspection clearance from a county option~~  
28 ~~brand inspection area, operating under K.S.A. 47-434 through 47-445, and~~  
29 ~~amendments thereto, such livestock brand inspection fee under this section~~  
30 ~~shall not be required.~~

31 (e) ~~The public livestock market operator shall pay all amounts~~  
32 ~~received under this section to the animal health commissioner.~~

33 (d) (c) The animal health commissioner shall remit all amounts  
34 received under this section to the state treasurer in accordance with the  
35 provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of  
36 each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in  
37 the state treasury to the credit of the livestock market brand inspection fee  
38 fund. All expenditures from such fund shall be made in accordance with  
39 appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports  
40 issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the animal health commissioner  
41 or by a person or persons designated by the commissioner.

42 Sec. 15. K.S.A. 47-418, 47-421, 47-423, 47-426, 47-436, 47-438, 47-  
43 439, 47-440, 47-445 and 47-447 and K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 47-414, 47-414a,

1 47-416, 47-417, 47-417a, 47-418a, 47-420, 47-422, 47-428, 47-432, 47-  
2 433, 47-434, 47-435, 47-437, 47-441, 47-442, 47-446, 47-448 and 47-  
3 1011a are hereby repealed.

4 Sec. 16. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
5 publication in the statute book.