

Approved: 3/13/07
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:45 a.m. on March 6, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Terry Bruce- excused
Steve Morris- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research
Art Griggs, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Judy Seitz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Tom Palace, Executive Director, Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA of Kansas)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken noted the minutes of the February 28 meeting were distributed to Committee members. Senator Pine moved the approval of the February 28 minutes. Seconded by Senator Lee. Motion carried.

The hearing on **HB 2145 - Redefining "dispensing device" to include vehicle tank meters**, was opened.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **HB 2145 (Attachment 1)**. He said **HB 2145** amends the definition of a dispensing device to allow petroleum inspection fee funds (PIFF) to be used for inspecting and testing vehicle tank meters. Many vehicle tank meters are not being tested annually because there are no service companies available to conduct tests and limited resources. This bill would allow the KDA to use existing resources and staff to provide additional consumer protection while reducing costs for the regulated industry.

Mr. Cotsoradis stood for questions.

Tom Palace, Executive Director, Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association of Kansas (PMCA of Kansas) offered comments in support of **HB 2145 (Attachment 2)**. He said that **HB 2145** amends the definition of a dispensing device to allow the petroleum inspection fee funds (PIFF) to be used for inspecting and testing meters on vehicle tanks. The PMCA also supports the amended language that authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to reduce the fees paid into the PIFF if reserves get to an excessive level. Mr. Palace also had suggested amendments to **HB 2145 (Attachment 3)**. He offered an amendment that would allow the funds to remain in the PIFF and not go into the state general fund. These funds would be used for inspections and testing of bio fuels.

Mr. Palace took questions from the Committee.

There were no opponents to **HB 2145**.

The hearing on **HB 2145** was closed.

Senator Francisco moved that the lines which were stricken in the proposed amendment be removed and the amount that can be credited to the state general fund be changed from \$250,000 to \$200,000 in K.S.A. 55-427. Motion seconded by Senator Lee.

Discussion was held on the motion.

Chairman Taddiken said work on **HB 2145** should be suspended until further information is received from the Kansas Department of Revenue.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture Committee at 8:45 a.m. on March 6, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

No action was taken on the motion.

Chairman Taddiken said the Committee would not meet tomorrow, Wednesday, so that the Natural Resources Committee can meet. The Agriculture Committee will meet again on Tuesday, March 12.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.