

MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on March 14, 2007 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Tim Huelskamp- excused
Steve Morris- excused
Derek Schmidt- 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:

Representative John C. Grange, District 75
Representative Eber Phelps, District 111
Leslie Kaufman, Executive Director, Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC)
Mary Jane Stankiewicz, Vice President and General Counsel, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA)
Justin Holstin, Executive Vice President, Propane Marketers Association of Kansas (PMCA)
Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD)
Joe Fund, Chief Fiscal Officer, Kansas Water Office (KWO)

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Taddiken opened the hearing on **SB 2294 - Exemption from Kansas propane safety and licensing act licensure and training requirements.**

Representative John C. Grange, District 75, testified in support of **SB 2294** (Attachment 1). He said this would allow a contractor who is licensed in one county or city and after paying the license and permit fees in another county or city to continue to work as long as they meet all other requirements in that jurisdiction where they are wanting to work or provide service.

Representative Grange offered to stand for questions.

Representative Eber Phelps, District 111, gave testimony in support of **SB 2294** (Attachment 2). He said individuals who have successfully completed Block or Experior National Testing programs are licensed to safely make connections of propane fueled equipment to propane supply sources. He also stated that further requirements for testing and training would be a duplication of what has already been done.

Representative Phelps took questions from the Committee.

Leslie Kaufman, Executive Director, Kansas Cooperative Council (KCC), spoke in support of **SB 2294** (Attachment 3). She said the KCC sees this bill as one means of streamlining recognition for certifications already earned relative to propane safety and reducing duplicate regulatory requirements.

Ms. Kaufman offered to take questions.

Mary Jane Stankiewicz, Vice President and General Counsel, Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA). The KARA believes that the individuals who receive a certificate under the law have been shown to be knowledgeable and capable professionals and her Association supports the exemption of these persons from the Propane Safety Act.

Ms. Stankiewicz took questions from the Committee.

Justin Holstin, Executive Vice President, Propane Marketers Association of Kansas, presented comments in

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favor of **HB 2294** (Attachment 5).

Mr. Holstin answered questions from the Committee.

Representative Grange also answered questions from the Committee regarding the licensing process.

Chris Wilson, Executive Director, Kansas Building Industry Association (KBIA), submitted written testimony in support of **HB 2294** (Attachment 6).

No opponents of **HB 2294** appeared.

Hearings on **HB 2294** were closed.

Senator Bruce moved that **SB 2294** be passed out favorably and placed on the consent calendar, seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. Motion passed.

Chairman Taddiken opened the hearings on **HB 2048 - Conservation districts, funding; increasing state conservation commission budget request limitation**. The concept of this bill is similar to **SB 60 - Conservation districts, funding**. **SB 60** passed out of this Committee unanimously and was later sent to the Ways and Means Committee. This bill is still in the Ways and Means Committee.

Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, (KACD) spoke in support of **HB 2048** (Attachment 7). This bill would increase aid to conservation districts from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Mr. Lehman offered to stand for questions.

Joe Fund, Chief Fiscal Officer, Kansas Water Office, presented testimony in support of **HB 2048** (Attachment 8). He said that conservation districts are responsible for the local administration of several State Water Plan Programs. The state's ability to deliver these statewide programs hinges on the capability of conservation districts in each of the 105 counties.

Mr. Fund took questions from the Committee.

There were no opponents to **HB 2048**.

Hearings were closed on **HB 2048**.

Senator Bruce moved to add the following sentence in line 24 after the word "district" to **HB 2048**, which is also in **SB 60**: "This \$25,000 limitation shall be applicable for fiscal year 2008 and thereafter", seconded by Senator Ostmeyer. Motion passed.

Senator Ostmeyer moved to add: " subject to appropriation, therefor," immediately after "thereafter" in line 24, seconded by Senator Pine. Motion passed.

Senator Ostmeyer moved **HB 2048** be passed as amended, seconded by Senator Pine. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.