

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on February 12, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Steve Lukert, State Representative,  
Sharon Schwartz, State Representative  
Dr. Ralph Richardson, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University  
Gary Reser, Executive Vice President, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association

Written Testimony: Tim Stroda, President-CEO, Kansas Pork Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Vice Chairman Fund introduced Mike Corrigan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, who gave an explanation on **HB 2213**, stating the veterinary training program provides scholarships for up to five, first-year veterinary students per year, in the amount of \$20,000 per year, for not more than four years for tuition, books, supplies and other school expenses incurred by the student.

No questions were asked.

At the conclusion of the bill explanation, testimony commenced on **HB 2213**.

**Hearing on:**

**HB 2213 - Loan agreements pursuant to the veterinary training program for rural Kansas.**

**Proponents:**

Steve Lukert, State Representative, (Attachment 1) spoke in favor of **HB 2213**, stating two purposes of introducing this bill are; (1) to go back and evaluate a piece of legislation that was passed out of this committee three years ago that became law, and (2), to ask the Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of this legislation and hopefully leave with an improved product. Representative Lukert (Attachment 2) distributed a map of the counties in Kansas which shows 13 counties, highlighted, that by definition are considered underserved.

Questions were asked and comments were made.

**Opponents:**

Sharon Schwartz, State Representative, (Attachment 3) testified in opposition of **HB 2213**, documenting that if the bill was passed, it would kill a program that today is providing the incentives for students to return to rural Kansas to practice upon their graduation. Representative Schwartz further stated she would recommend the population requirement be omitted from the program.

No questions were asked.

Dr. Ralph Richardson, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University, (Attachment 4) spoke in opposition of **HB 2213**, documenting veterinary graduates in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century are facing unprecedented educational debt. Dr. Richardson also indicated that for participants in the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas, limiting their living choices to a county with 10,000 people or less creates a major

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disincentive for new graduates. Additionally, changing the pay-back time frame from four to six years only adds to the anxiety and concern that new graduates have about taking their first practice position and will likely reduce the number of future applicants.

Questions were asked and comments were made.

Gary Reser, Executive Vice President, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association, (Attachment 5) presented testimony in opposition of **HB 2213**, stating lowering the maximum population threshold from 35,000 to 10,000 as well as increasing the pay-back period from four to six years, would make the program less attractive to students and jeopardize a program that has only been in place for three years.

No questions were asked.

### **Written testimony in opposition of HB 2213 provided by:**

Tim Stroda, President CEO, Kansas Pork Association, (Attachment 6)

Students from the College of Veterinary Medicine commented on the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas.

At the conclusion of the testimony presentation, Chairman Powell requested Representative Moxley report on **HB 2050**.

### **Action on:**

**HB 2050 - Adjusting fees for water rights, applications for term permits for appropriating water.**

Copies of Subcommittee Report on **HB 2050** (Attachment 7) and Proposed Substitute for **HB 2050** (Attachment 8) were distributed to members of the Committee.

Representative Moxley made a motion to accept the Subcommittee report on **HB 2050**. Representative Wetta seconded the motion. By unanimous vote of the Committee, the motion was carried.

Representative Johnson made a motion to pass **HB 2050** out. Representative Lukert seconded the motion. By unanimous vote of the Committee, the motion was carried.

Chairman Powell asked the Committee to review meeting minutes dated 1-26, 1-28, 1-29, 2-02, and 2-03.

Representative Wetta made a motion to approve the minutes. Representative Hayzlett seconded the motion. By unanimous vote of the Committee, the motion was carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.