

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

27487 Wells Creek Rd.
Wamego, KS 66547-1867
(785) 456-9799

State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-7310
ron.highland@house.ks.gov



Ron Highland, DVM, PhD
Representative, 51st District

Committee Assignments

Chair: Water
Member: Commerce, Labor and Economic
Development
Member: Taxation
Member: Rules and Journal

January 24, 2021

Water Committee
Kansas House of Representatives

Ref: HB 2005, Testimony in favor of

Vice Chairman Orr and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing me the time to come before you to give my testimony in favor of HB 2005. In accordance with the new House Rules: I am bringing this bill forward for the owners of Wamego Inn & Suites in Wamego, Kansas. They brought to my attention a situation where the inspector from the Kansas Fire Marshall's office is requiring them to refit their facility's location where the water heaters are located. All this because the inspector is classifying their water heaters as boilers.

The laws and regulations covering boilers is quite different than those for water heaters, and they should be. A boiler, by definition, produces steam as an energy source to produce heat, electricity, work heavy machinery, etc. Boilers are dangerous. Water heaters are not designed to produce steam, only heat water to 210 degrees or less. The water heaters in question share the same design as those in your home, only larger. In their case the water heaters are 95 gallons.

The current law exempts a water supply heater if none of the following limitations are exceeded:

1. Heat input of 200,000 BTUH;
2. Water temperature of 210 degrees Fahrenheit; and
3. Nominal water capacity of 85 gallons or 120 gallons for an electrical utility generating plant.

This bill simply removes the 85-gallon size limit and strikes the language referring to generating electricity. This change will allow water heaters up to 120-gallons "legal" for use. In closing, attempts were made to coordinate and proof the bill by the State Fire Marshall's office.

Thank you,

Respectively submitted by,

Ronald L. Highland, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Ron Highland, Dist. 51
Kansas House of Representatives