

Department of Commerce  
1000 S.W. Jackson St., Suite 100  
Topeka, KS 66612-1354



Phone: (785) 296-3481  
Fax: (785) 296-5055  
KansasCommerce.gov

David C. Toland, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

HB2254, Neutral, Oral Testimony presented by Rachel Willis

**Kansas Department of Commerce  
Testimony on HB 2254  
Rachel Willis, Director of Legislatives Affairs  
Kansas Department of Commerce  
Senate Taxation  
January 24, 2024, 9:30 a.m.  
Room 548 S**

Thank you for allowing us to testify as neutral to HB 2254. This bill amends property tax relating to classification of agritourism. Our primary concern with the bill is the utilization of registered agritourism as a classification for property tax.

Agritourism is defined as the intersection of agriculture and tourism, where the public is able to visit a working farm, ranch, winery, agriculture operation or active heritage site for enjoyment, outdoor recreation, activities, education, shopping, dining or lodging. Examples of agritourism activities include corn mazes, hunting or fishing on a farm property, camping, viewing a cider press or feeding a baby goat. Kansas Tourism, a division of the Department of Commerce, manages the Kansas Registered AgriTourism program. AgriTourism businesses who chose to be part of the Registered AgriTourism program receive limited liability coverage and marketing of their business by Kansas Tourism. Currently, there are 439 registered AgriTourism businesses in Kansas.

Overall, the designation as an AgriTourism operator as a condition for receiving a different property tax appraisal would drastically change the operation of the AgriTourism registration program. The registered AgriTourism process is simply a way to provide limited liability coverage and promotional benefits to agritourism businesses across the state. While Tourism works to ensure that the business is offering an agritourism activity in order to qualify as a registered AgriTourism business, this process is not as rigorous as it would need to be to guarantee businesses were not registering solely to receive the property tax benefit. This would require a new level regulation that Tourism staff are not qualified to perform. Kansas Tourism should not be involved in policing or regulating businesses regarding agritourism activities and property tax. Rather Kansas Tourism would like to continue to work to build Kansas as a top destination for resident and non-resident travelers, unify and lead industry partners and inspire in-state advocacy and pride.

We request that this designation not be certified by Kansas Tourism. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as neutral to HB 2254.