

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael R. O'Neal at 3:30 p.m. on February 17, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Representative David Haley - Excused
- Representative Andrew Howell - Excused
- Representative Rick Rehorn - Excused
- Representative Clark Shultz - Excused

Committee staff present:

- Jerry Ann Donaldson, Legislative Research Department
- Jill Wolters, Office of Revisor of Statutes
- Cindy O'Neal, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- Derek Schmidt, Legislative Liaison & Special Counsel, Office of the Governor
- Rex Beasley, Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Protection Antitrust Division
- Allie Devine, Kansas Livestock Association
- Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Farm Bureau

Hearing on **HB 2855 – restraint of trade, penalties**, was opened.

Derek Schmidt, Legislative Liaison & Special Counsel, Office of the Governor, appeared on behalf of the Governor. He informed the committee that antitrust standards are already in current law but the enforcement mechanisms and remedies are inadequate. The proposed bill would strengthen those inadequacies making Kansas' antitrust laws useful for the 21st Century. ([Attachment 1](#))

Rex Beasley, Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Protection Antitrust Division, appeared in support of the proposed bill. He offered several amendments of which the most controversial one suggested that the Attorney General's office be able to investigate a company when it is believed that an antitrust law has been or is about to be violated. ([Attachment 2](#))

Allie Devine, Kansas Livestock Association, supported the updated provisions because it simply modernizes many terms and procedures used today. She opposed the amendments suggested by the Attorney General's office. ([Attachment 3](#))

Leslie Kaufman, Kansas Farm Bureau, also appeared in support of the concepts in the proposed bill but hoped that the suggested change by the Attorney General's office would not give that Office the ability to abuse its power. ([Attachment 4](#))

Hearing on **HB 2855** was closed.

The committee meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for February 21, 2000.