

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carolyn McGinn at 8:30 a.m. on February 21st, 2008 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes
Matt Todd, Revisor of Statutes
Adrienne Halpin, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Phillip Journey, Kansas State Senate
Mike Hayden, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chair McGinn opened the meeting with discussion on **SB 475**, Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) requested that the bill be amended to take effect upon publication in the Kansas Register. Chair McGinn made a motion to amend the bill, seconded by Senator Taddiken. The motion carried.

Senator Francisco moved that the bill be passed out favorably as amended; Senator Taddiken seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Committee discussed **SB 474**, controlled shooting areas and field trials, during which time Mike Hayden, Secretary, KDWP, responded to questions.

Senator Francisco requested that language be amended including lines 25 and 27 of page 1. Chair McGinn asked the revisors to make the appropriate changes so that the Committee could continue discussing the bill the following day.

Chair McGinn then commenced the discussion of **SB 538**, farm and ranch land protection program and conservation easements, stating that a provision—section 10—had been added to page 4. Discussion followed during which time Mike Beam, Kansas Livestock Association, answered questions.

Senator Taddiken made a motion for the bill to be passed out favorably, seconded by Senator Lee. The motion carried with assenting votes from all members except Senators Bruce, Huelskamp, and Pyle.

Chair McGinn then opened the hearing on **SB 606**, invasive species management and aquaculture advisory council.

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research, commenced the hearing by introducing the main points of the bill which include long-term plans for KDWP to address problems of invasive species management in concurrence with a new aquaculture advisory council and the Department of Agriculture. Additionally, the Secretary of KDWP would be given the authority to designate certain non-native species as invasive.

Senator Phillip Journey testified in support of **SB 606** (Attachment 1) specifically citing the zebra mussel as a threat to the natural resources of Kansas. Senator Journey stated that other states—specifically those around the Great Lakes—have adopted comprehensive programs to educate the public toward preventing the spread of zebra mussels. This species, he stated, presents a significant threat which will only increase with time. The current bill would counter this threat by supporting awareness programs and by establishing an effective means of cleaning boats which have been used in contaminated waters. Senator Journey stood for questions.

Next, Mike Hayden, Secretary, (KDWP) spoke in favor of the bill (Attachment 2). Secretary Hayden stated that the problem of zebra mussel infestation has gone largely ignored until this point and needs to be examined. He stated that the current legislation would need more work, but that a solution to the problem

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needs to be introduced. In financing such a solution, KDWP already receives a small amount of funding from a federal grant. In the future, however, KDWP would need to hire additional employees to maintain an effective program. Secretary Hayden closed by reiterating the need for a deliberate, well-planned and well-funded program. Secretary Hayden stood for questions.

Written only testimony was provided by:

Dale Goter, City of Wichita (Attachment 3).

Chair McGinn announced the continuation of the hearing the following day.

Senator Pyle made a motion to approve the minutes from February 7th, seconded by Senator Ostmeier. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.