

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 9:00 a.m. on March 8, 2011, in Room 783 in the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Rocky Fund - Excused
Representative Michael Peterson - Excused

Committee staff present:

Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kay Scarlett, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Robin Jennison, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Christopher Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on SB 123 – Establishing fees for wildlife and parks cabins.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on **SB 123**. Sean Ostrow, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, explained that this bill would change existing law to allow the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks, with the approval of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission, to directly set fees for the use of cabins owned or operated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Current law requires the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to set cabin fees through the administrative rules and regulations process. The bill also sets maximum fees for use of the cabins.

Robin Jennison, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, addressed the committee stating that the Department would appreciate the increased flexibility **SB 123** would allow them to market the use of public cabins with the intent of increasing the revenue generated by such use as well as encourage people to get outdoors and enjoy all that Kansas has to offer. He introduced Mark Stock, Cabin Coordinator, and Linda Craghead, Special Assistant for Parks and Tourism.

Christopher Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, testified in support of **SB 123** that would remove cabin fees from the rules and regulation process and provide the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Parks additional flexibility in adjusting the fees charged for Department cabins at various state parks and public lands. The current administrative rules and regulations process does not allow KDWP to adjust a fee for market conditions such as decreased demand of certain cabins or to provide market incentives such as allowing “package” promotion fees for underutilized cabins. The Department of Wildlife and Parks currently has 94 cabins with an additional 20 planned for 2011. (Attachment 1)

The Chairman asked for a list of cabins and their locations owned or operated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

There being no other conferees, Chairman Powell closed the hearing on **SB 123**.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee is scheduled for March 9, 2011.