

SESSION OF 2018

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 307**

As Agreed to April 2, 2018

Brief*

House Sub. for SB 307 would make amendments to the Kansas Amusement Ride Act (Act).

Definitions

“Limited-use amusement ride” would mean an amusement ride that is owned and operated by a nonprofit, community-based organization, is operated for less than either 20 days or 160 hours per year, and is operated at only one location each year.

“Registered agritourism activity” would have the same meaning as it does in the Agritourism Promotion Act (KSA 2017 Supp. 32-1430 *et seq.*).

“Amusement ride” would specifically exclude:

- Antique amusement rides;
- Limited-use amusement rides;
- Registered agritourism activities;
- Any ride commonly known as a hayrack ride, in which patrons sit in a wagon or cart that is then pulled by horses or a tractor or other motor vehicle;

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- Any ride commonly known as a barrel train, which has a series of handmade cars fashioned from barrels that are connected and pulled by a tractor or other motor vehicle; and
- Amusement rides owned by an individual and operated solely within a single county for strictly private use.

The definition of “amusement ride” would also be amended to remove language including all rides and devices in American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International F24 Committee Standards.

“Antique amusement ride” would mean an amusement ride, as defined in current law, manufactured prior to January 1, 1930.

“Water slide” would mean a slide that is at least 35 feet in height and uses water to propel the patron through the ride.

The definition of “qualified inspector,” as it relates to acceptable training requirements, would be changed from Level II National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials (NAARSO) certification to Level I NAARSO certification. References to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture general qualified inspector status would also be removed from the definition. The definition would specify that any inspector of inflatable devices that are rented on a regular basis and erected at temporary locations would be required to provide evidence of:

- Five years of experience working with inflatable devices; and
- Qualified training from a third party, such as advanced inflatable safety operations certification from the Safe Inflatable Operators Training Organization, or other similar qualification from another nationally recognized institution.

Finally, “serious injury” would include injury or illness that requires immediate admission and overnight hospitalization and observation by a licensed physician. The current definition includes injuries or illnesses requiring immediate medial treatment.

Antique Amusement Rides, Limited-use Amusement Rides, Registered Agritourism Activities

Permits

The bill would provide that an antique amusement ride, limited-use amusement ride, or registered agritourism activity could not be operated in Kansas without a valid permit issued by the Department of Labor (Department). The owner of such a ride would be required to apply to the Department for a permit in such form and manner as prescribed by the Secretary of Labor (Secretary). The application would be required to include:

- The name of owner and operator of the ride;
- The location of ride or location ride is stored when not in use;
- A valid certificate of inspection; and
- Proof of insurance.

Once an application was approved, the permit fee received, and a permit was issued for the antique amusement ride, limited-use amusement ride, or registered agritourism activity, the permit would be valid for one year from the date of issuance.

Permit Fees

Applicants for operating permits for antique amusement rides, limited-use amusement rides, and registered agritourism activities would be required to pay a permit fee of \$50.

Permit fees would be returned to applicants if their applications were denied by the Department. Permit fees collected by the Secretary would be credited to the Amusement Ride Safety Fund.

Registration

The bill would require each antique amusement ride, limited-use amusement ride, or registered agritourism activity be registered with the Department prior to operation. Registration would be in such form and manner as prescribed by the Secretary and require payment of a registration fee of \$50.

The registration fee would be an annual fee paid by the owner, regardless of the number of rides owned by such owner. Registration fees collected by the Secretary would be credited to the Amusement Ride Safety Fund.

Insurance Requirements

The owner or operator of any antique amusement ride, limited-use amusement ride, or registered agritourism activity would be required to provide for coverage of at least \$750,000 per occurrence with a \$1,000,000 annual aggregate. Continuing law states owners and operators of amusement rides are required to provide for coverage of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$2,000,000 annual aggregate, or self-insure or participate in a public entity self-insurance pool, if the owner is the State or any subdivision of the State; the bill would clarify this requirement.

General Provisions

Inflatables

The bill would state that no inflatable device rented on a regular basis and erected at a temporary location could be operated in the state unless the operator had been trained by a person who has attained a basic inflatable safety operations certification from the Safe Inflatable Operators Training Organization or other similar qualification from another nationally recognized institution.

Slide Attendants

The bill would require an attendant to be stationed at each slide that uses water to propel the patron through the ride, and that is 15 feet or more in height.

Permit Applications, Amusement Rides

The bill would specify that permit applications for amusement rides manufactured before July 1, 2018, would have to include certification that the ride qualifies as service proven, as that term is used in applicable ASTM International F24 Committee Standards.

For rides manufactured on and after July 1, 2018, permit applications would have to include certification that the ride meets applicable ASTM International F24 Committee Standards pertaining to ride maintenance and operation.

The bill would also include antique amusement rides, limited-use amusement rides, and registered agritourism activities in provisions of the Act not otherwise modified by the bill.

Serious Injury

The bill would specify that, upon notification of serious injury, the Department must acknowledge receipt of the notice and determine whether an investigation is necessary.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the substitute bill and further agreed to amend:

- The annual registration fee for antique amusement rides, limited-use amusement rides, and registered agritourism activities to \$50, plus a \$50 permit fee per event, per year;
- The definition of “limited-use amusement rides” to an amusement ride that is operated by a non-profit, community-based organization for less than 20 days, or 160 hours, per year, and at only one location each year. Antique rides would be exempt from this definition;
- Provisions related to inspections for inflatable rides and devices to allow such inspections to be performed by inspectors certified by the Safe Inflatable Operators Training Organization or other nationally recognized organization;
- The definition of “water slide” to subject slides with a minimum height of 35 feet to the provisions of the Act, with no exemptions for municipally owned water slides; and
- The requirement that an attendant be stationed at slides that use water to propel the patron through the ride, and that is 15 feet or more in height.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

Senate Action

In the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs hearing, Senator Billinger, as well as representatives of Gary's Berries, the Kansas League of Municipalities, the Kansas Recreation and Park Association, the National Christmas Tree Association, the Sheridan County Amusement Company, Sky Zone, and the Wallace County Amusement Association, testified in favor of the bill. Written-only testimony in support of the bill was provided by the cities of Lenexa, Manhattan, Olathe, and Prairie Village; the Kansas Association of Counties; the Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs; the Travel Industry Association; and a private citizen.

A representative from the Department provided neutral testimony. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended provisions related to hayrack rides, barrel trains, water slides, inflatable devices, and notification of serious injury.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to remove provisions stating a qualified inspector would not be held liable for any personal injury or property damage resulting from duties required by the Act. The Senate Committee also removed language relating to court costs and attorney fees that could be awarded to qualified inspectors who prevail in any action or proceeding brought against them for acts or omissions while engaged in discharge of the inspector's duties. [*Note:* The Conference Committee retained these amendments.]

House Action

In the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs hearing, proponent testimony was presented by Senator Billinger, Representative Adam Smith, and representatives of the Kansas Association of Counties, the Kansas Christmas Tree Growers Association, the Kansas Recreation and Park Association, and the League of Kansas Municipalities.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by Representative Pittman, the City of Olathe, the Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs, the Sheridan County Amusement Company, Inc., and the Travel Industry Association of Kansas. Neutral testimony was presented by the Amusement Ride Coordinator, Kansas Department of Labor.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill by replacing all references to “home-owned” amusement rides with the term “limited-use” amusement rides. The House Committee also amended the term for which permits and registration fees are valid for limited-use amusement rides; specified recognized organizations for inflatable device inspection certification; specified inflatable device training for customers; amended the definition of water slide; and created a provision requiring lifeguard presence at water slides 15 feet or more in height. The House Committee placed the amended contents into a substitute bill.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the substitute bill by specifying that an attendant must be stationed at water slides 15 feet or more in height, defining “antique amusement ride,” and subjecting antique amusement rides to the same requirements as limited-use rides and registered agritourism activities. [*Note:* The Conference Committee retained these amendments.]

Fiscal Note

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Department indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency. A fiscal note on the substitute bill was not available at the time the House Committee took action on the bill.

amusement rides; Kansas Amusement Ride Act; antique amusement ride; limited-use amusement rides; agritourism

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