

Approved April 4, 2002

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Huff at 9:05 a.m. on March 28, 2002 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Edmonds, excused
Representative Hutchins, excused
Representative Kirk, excused
Representative Mays, excused

Committee staff present: Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Don Hayward, Revisor
Winnie Crapson, Secretary

Conferrees appearing before the Committee: Bill Waters, Property Valuation Department
Allie Devine, Kansas Livestock Association
Janet McPherson, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others Attending: See attached list.

Hearing was opened on
HB 2724 - County Appraiser Meetings.

Bill Waters, Attorney in the Property Valuation Department of the Department of Revenue, appeared to present the written testimony of Mark Beck, Director, discussing the bill (Attachment #1). Mr. Beck was unable to attend. Mr. Waters said essentially **HB 2724** changes “shall” to “may” (line 28). Mr. Waters said Mr. Beck does not have a position on this bill and suggested the Committee might consider merely repealing K.S.A. 79-1401 as all its provisions are set forth in other statutes.

In response to questions Mr. Waters said the Director has general supervisory authority over the system of property taxation and also has the authority to remove an assessor with cause. He said the Department did not request introduction of the bill. Counties are obligated to send appraisers to attend a meeting and on repeal of the statute there would continue to be a meeting which provides an opportunity to educate the appraisers.

Mr. Waters said the Department had not heard from appraisers who did not want to come to an every second year meeting and to his knowledge the Director has never disciplined an appraiser for not attending. As written the statute mandates that the Director actually hold a meeting and that it be in the State Capitol. Attempts have been made to find a central location and meetings have been held in Hutchinson, Salina and Wichita.

In response to a question Mr. Waters said to his knowledge the Director has never removed an appraiser. He has to have cause and there is an appeal. County commissioners also have authority to remove an appraiser and a number of appraisers have been removed by county commissioners. He noted that this bill makes some technical changes and makes the meetings discretionary rather than mandatory.

Hearing on HB 2724 was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Hearing was opened on

SB 553 - Report required by PVD on land devoted to agricultural use valuation procedures.

Allie Devine presented testimony in support of **SB 553** on behalf of the Kansas Livestock Association (Attachment #2). The Association has been active on the Secretary of Revenue's Agricultural Advisory Board established at the beginning of Governor Graves' administration to go through each factor in use valuation formula to determine whether it was being conducted appropriately. She said many changes have taken place in the methodology and the bill was requested to create a history of changes that have been made.

A special committee of Assessment and Taxation asked the International Organization of Appraisal to come in from out of state and review the use value formula in Kansas. Part of their report was that there had been so many changes that there needs to be public education.

Janet McPherson presented testimony in support of **SB 553** on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (Attachment #3). The Kansas Farm Bureau appreciated the dialogue that took place with leadership at the Special Committee last summer and observed that sometimes institutional knowledge of how those things were applied is lost.

Hearing was closed on SB 553.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. Next meeting is March 29.