

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on March 7, 2007 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Revisor of Statutes Office
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Don Myers
Representative Candy Ruff
Representative Mario Goico
Tim Schultz, U.S. English
Arthur Solis
Phil DeLaTorre
Sandy Jacquot, League of Kansas Municipalities
Corey Mohn, Department of Commerce
Whitney Damron, Ks Grape Growers & Wine Makers Association
Tuck Duncan, KS Wine & Spirits Wholesalers Association
Representative Judith Loganbill

Others attending:

See attached list.

HB 2140 - English official language of the State of Kansas

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **HB 2140**.

Representative Don Myers appeared in favor of the bill. (Attachment 1) This bill would designate English as the official language of the State of Kansas; this would include all public documents for all state agencies as well as political and taxing subdivisions and official public meetings, and would not diminish or expand existing rights.

Representative Candy Ruff spoke in favor of the bill. (Attachment 2) This bill is not intended as an anti-immigrant bill; this legislation is meant to encourage non-English speakers to adopt English as their own language to better communicate and work more effectively in Kansas. An amendment was placed on the bill during debate on the House floor adding \$500,000 to adult education through a Kansas Board of Regents program, and an additional \$300,000 in federal funding that is leveraged when the state's \$500,000 grant is funded.

Representative Mario Goico appeared as a proponent of the bill. (Attachment 3) The bill does establish English as the common language of Kansas, but does not interfere with federal mandates that direct state agencies and localities to communicate in other languages.

Tim Schultz U.S. English, appeared in favor of the bill. (Attachment 4) The bill in making English the official language is a gentle push to state agencies that encounter immigrants to consider English language learning and assimilation.

Arthur Solis spoke in opposition to the bill. (Attachment 5) Mr. Solis said regrettably that Kansas must again face committee hearings on an English-only bill; in 1995 the House Fed & State Committee killed **HB 2517**, in 1996 did not move **SB 528** out of committee, in 1997 Senate Leadership passed over **SB 179** because of lack of support for the legislation and asked the committee to kill this bill.

Phillip DeLaTorre appeared in opposition to the bill (Attachment 6) He felt that the state government of Kansas is about to make a serious and harmful mistake, and that the bill serves no useful purpose by going

CONTINUATION SHEET

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against the tradition of honor and respect for our nation's rich multi-faceted character to individual choice.

Melinda Lewis, El Centro, Inc., provided written testimony in opposition to the bill. ([Attachment 7](#))

Sandy Jacquot, League of Kansas Municipalities, provided neutral testimony on the bill. ([Attachment 8](#)) The League requested that the Senate preserve the amendment by the House to allow cities to publish documents in languages other than English as long as such documents are also published in English.

Mike Taylor, Unified Government of Wyandotte County, provided neutral written testimony on the bill. ([Attachment 9](#)) The bill as approved by the House because it makes clear that the Legislature is not trying to restrict or prohibit local government from providing information in languages other than English.

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **HB 2140**.

HB 2270 - Official Firefighters Museum; Official Firefighter Memorial

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **HB 2270**.

Representative Judith Loganbill spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 10](#)) The museum serves as a vital place of history and as a state designation can only grow and add to the living history of Kansas.

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **HB 2270**.

HB 2202 - Farm wineries; catering licenses

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **HB 2202**.

Whitney Damron presented testimony for Norman Jennings, Smoky Hill Vineyard & Winery in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 11](#)) The bill would restore the catering license ability that had been declined to renew due to a conflict within the Kansas Statutes.

Corey Mohn, Agriculture Products Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 12](#)) The consumption of wine is a natural complement to the consumption of food products and allowing these existing farm wineries to obtain licenses to serve food and wine together adds to the experience and the returns reaped by each individual business.

Carole Jordan, Director of Rural and Legislative Affairs, Kansas Department of Agriculture, ([Attachment 13](#)) and Representative Ann Mah ([Attachment 14](#)) provided written testimony in support of the bill.

Tuck Duncan, Kansas Wine & Spirits Wholesalers Association, provided neutral testimony on the bill. ([Attachment 15](#)) This bill is intended to correct what is perceived as a technical correction because it has been thought by some that farm wineries already had catering privilege. An amendment desired by the ABC to conform the Liquor Control Act to the changes herein in the Club and Drinking Establishment Act was provided. ([Attachment 16](#))

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **HB 2202**.

Final Action:

HB 2293 - Technical changes to the licensure, examination and registration of certified public accountants

Senator Barnett moved to pass **HB 2293** out favorably. Senator Vratil seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 am. The next scheduled meeting is March 8, 2007.