

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WATER COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Minnix at 9:00 am on Thursday, January 30, 2025, in room 218-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department
Kyle Hamilton, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Tony Prohaska, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Tom Stiles, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Kate Miller, Kansas Municipal Utilities
Wendi Stark, The League of Kansas Municipalities
John Gilroy, Kansas American Water Works
Cathy Tucker-Vogel, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Daryn Martin, Assistant General Manager, Kansas Rural Water

Others in attendance:

No list available

Request for bill introductions

Representative Minnix made a request for bill introductions.

Representative Vaughn introduced 25Rs0941 Reorganization of State Agencies regarding Water and Natural resources.

The bill was accepted without objection

There were no other introductions.

Hearing on: HB2085 — Extending the expiration of permits issued under the water pollution control permit system from five to 10 years.

Chairperson Minnix opened the hearing for HB2085.

Kyle Hamilton, Revisor of Statutes, provided a bill brief for HB2085 ([Attachment 1](#)).

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Oral proponent

Tom Stiles, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, ([Attachment 2](#)) Mr. Stiles responded to questions regarding the volume of annual permits, backlogs, and the total amount of yearly permit issued. Mr. Stiles responded to questions on how other states are doing and how our permit procedures compare. He indicated the proposed bill should reduce permit backlogs.

Written opponent

Matthew Steele, PHD P.E, ([Attachment 3](#)).

Chairperson Minnix closed the hearing on **HB2085** at 9:21 am.

Hearing on: HB2112 — Requiring water supply system and wastewater treatment facility operator certification examination fees to not exceed the costs for such exams and eliminating the certification of operators through correspondence courses.

Chairperson Minnix opened the hearing for **HB2112**.

Kyle Hamilton, Revisor of Statutes provided a bill brief ([Attachment 4](#)).

Proponents

Oral Proponents

Kate Miller, Kansas Municipal Utilities, ([Attachment 5](#)).

Wendi Stark, The League of Kansas Municipalities, ([Attachment 6](#)).

John Gilroy, American Water Works Association, Kansas Section ([Attachment 7](#)).

Cathy Tucker-Vogel, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, ([Attachment 8](#)) Ms. Tucker-Vogel responded to questions from committee regarding the amount of pass fail rate for drinking water exams. Questions about small communities and the new standard certification process impacts small community water operations. Questions about the number of exams performed each year and their

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pass rate.

Written Proponents

Randy Frazier, City Manager, Arkansas City, ([Attachment 9](#)).

Kurt Bookout, Former Director of Public Utilities, ([Attachment 10](#)).

Fred Jones, Water Resource Manager, Garden City KS, ([Attachment 11](#)).

Opponents

Oral Opponent

Daryn Martin, Kansas Rural Water, ([Attachment 12](#)) Shared that **HB2112** will add cost and unnecessary regulations to the water permit process. Small communities would struggle with obtaining certification due to the complexity of passing a certification test, that includes functions not used in smaller communities.

Written Opponent

Heath Austin, Mayor of Potwin Kansas, ([Attachment 13](#)).

Steve Carmichael, City of Haven Kansas, ([Attachment 14](#)).

Perry Smith, Superintendent, Finney County, ([Attachment 15](#)).

Brandon Smith, Public Wholesale Water #12, ([Attachment 16](#)).

Chairperson Minnix closed the hearing at 10:10 am.

Chairperson Minnix adjourned the meeting at 10:12 am.