

SESSION OF 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2456

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2456, as amended, would authorize the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks (Secretary) to issue a Kansas kids lifetime combination hunting and fishing license (license) on or after January 1, 2023, to Kansas residents of certain ages upon payment of a fee, which could be paid on behalf of the child.

The bill would establish age ranges for the child receiving the license and the accompanying license fees based on the age of the child:

- For a child five years of age or younger, the license fee would be \$300; and
- For a child six years of age or older, but not more than 12 years of age, the license fee would be \$400.

On and after July 1, 2027, the license fees could be increased up to an additional \$100, with approval from the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission. The authority to issue these licenses would expire on July 1, 2032.

The bill would authorize the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the bill.

The bill would also require the Secretary to submit an annual report to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget on the number of lifetime combination licenses issued.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was prefiled for introduction on November 12, 2021, by Representative Corbet.

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

In the House Committee hearing, **opponent** testimony was provided by the Secretary, who stated the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) would lose federal aid, as the proposed \$200 license fee does not meet the federal minimum annual revenue requirements. The Secretary also stated that cost is not the only barrier to attracting youth to hunting and fishing, as lack of access and social support also deter youth from participating in outdoor opportunities.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to require the Secretary to submit an annual report to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget on the number of lifetime combination licenses issued.

House Committee of the Whole

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to increase the license fee from \$200 to \$300, allow the license fee to be increased up to \$400 after 5 years with approval of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission, and add a sunset of 10 years on the authority to issue the licenses.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Corbet, who provided information showing that the number of hunting and fishing licenses for youth, ages 20 and under, have declined over the last 15 years. He stated the new license would provide an incentive for encouraging the next generation of hunters and anglers. Representatives Blex and Will Carpenter also provided proponent testimony.

The Secretary provided neutral testimony on the bill, stating that with the amendments made by the House Committee of the Whole that increased the license cost from \$200 to \$300, the KDWP will be able to claim federal funds. The Secretary also requested an amendment to the bill and stated the bill removes a cost barrier to attract more youth to hunt and fish, but it does not address the issue of access to hunting and fishing.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to:

- Establish January 1, 2023, as the date on and after which a Kansas kids lifetime combination hunting and fishing license may be issued;
- Authorize the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the bill; and
- Change the effective date of the bill to upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to establish two age ranges for the license, with different

accompanying fees depending on the age of the child, and to make technical amendments to provide conformity to the wording of the bill with the addition of the amendment.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDWP indicates enactment of the bill would result in a loss of federal funding of at least \$12,300 per year. The agency states that because the number of licenses that would be sold cannot be estimated, the exact fiscal effect cannot be determined.

An updated fiscal note reflecting the amendments to the bill was not immediately available. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The Governor's FY 2023 Budget Report*.

Wildlife and parks; licenses; Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; Secretary of Wildlife and Parks