

KANSAS OFFICE of  
**REVISOR of STATUTES**

LEGISLATURE of THE STATE of KANSAS  
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**MEMORANDUM**

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Date: January 22, 2024  
Subject: **HB 2541-Establishing the state conservation fund, the working lands conservation fund, the wildlife conservation fund and the Kansas outdoors fund, providing for the use of moneys from such funds, requiring certain reports to the governor and the legislature and authorizing certain transfers to and from such funds.**

House Bill No. 2541 establishes four new funds in the state treasury. The state conservation fund, the working lands conservation fund, the wildlife conservation fund and the Kansas outdoors fund.

Section 1 establishes the state conservation fund. The fund's purpose is to finance conservation programs. Moneys credited to the state conservation fund shall be used to supplement existing appropriations and shall not be used to supplant state general fund or special revenue fund appropriations to the Kansas department of agriculture or the Kansas department of wildlife and parks. This section also authorizes an annual transfer from the state general fund to the state conservation fund in an amount equal to 50% of the sales and use tax revenues credited to the state general fund from the sale of sporting goods as certified by the secretary of revenue.

Section 1 also authorizes transfers each year from the state conservation fund of:

- A. 50% of the balance in the state conservation fund to the working lands conservation fund.
- B. 25% of the balance in the state conservation fund to the wildlife conservation fund.
- C. After making the prior transfers, the remaining balance in the state conservation fund to the Kansas outdoors fund.

Section 2 establishes the working lands conservation fund. This fund is administered by the director of the division of conservation of the Kansas department of agriculture. The division

of conservation shall adopt rules and regulations to establish a grant program. The secretary of agriculture shall establish an external review panel that shall meet at least twice a year to provide funding recommendations to the division of conservation. Public entities may submit grant applications for funding that shall benefit the natural resources of the state by promoting conservation on working lands with applications providing an opportunity to capture federal, private or other nonstate moneys being prioritized. It is intended that all moneys allocated to the fund be fully obligated to approved projects within 12 months and be in addition to and not supplant existing appropriations. "Working lands" is defined as "lands used for farming, grazing or production of forest products."

Section 3 establishes the wildlife conservation fund. This fund is administered by the secretary of wildlife and parks. The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations to establish a grant program. The secretary shall establish a volunteer advisory board to oversee the grant program and the board shall submit funding recommendations to the department for final approval or revision. Public entities may submit grant applications for funding that shall benefit the natural resources of the state by promoting biodiversity or through practices established in the state wildlife action plan with applications providing an opportunity to capture federal, private or other nonstate moneys being prioritized. It is intended that all moneys allocated to the fund be fully obligated to approved projects within 12 months and be in addition to and not supplant existing appropriations.

Section 4 establishes the Kansas outdoors fund. This fund is administered by the secretary of wildlife and parks as part of the parks division of the Kansas department of wildlife and parks. The secretary in consultation with the division, shall adopt rules and regulations to administer a grant program. The parks divisions shall establish a volunteer advisory board to oversee the grant program and the board shall submit funding recommendations to the division for final approval or revision. Public entities may submit grant applications for funding that shall benefit the natural resources of the state by promoting outdoor access, environmental education and recreation through practices established in the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan with applications providing an opportunity to capture federal, private or other nonstate moneys being prioritized. It is intended that all moneys allocated to the fund be fully obligated to approved projects within 12 months and be in addition to and not supplant existing appropriations.

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On or before December 1 each year, the Kansas department of agriculture and the Kansas department of wildlife and parks shall submit a reports to the governor and the legislature that include an accounting of all moneys expended from the working lands fund, the wildlife conservation fund and the Kansas outdoors fund in the preceding fiscal year and the current fiscal year to date and a brief description of all funding applications received with an explanation of why such applications were or were not funded.

Section 5 amends K.S.A. 74-8711, the lottery operating fund statute, to change the transfer of 80% of sports waging revenues from the attracting professional sports to Kansas fund to the state conversation fund. This section also authorizes an additional transfer of \$32,000,000 from the lottery operating fund to the state conservation fund on July 1, 2024, and each July 1 thereafter.

The bill becomes effective upon publication in the statute book, July 1, 2024.