

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator David Corbin at 8:00 a.m. on January 27 in 245-N of the Capitol. The chair and vice-chair were absent for a portion of the meeting and Senator Biggs acted as chair at that time.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Lila McClafin, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Steve Williams, Secretary, Wildlife and Parks  
Clint Riley, Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

A request from Al LeDoux, director, Kansas Water Office for introduction of a bill to move the position of assistant director of the Kansas Water Office from the classified to the unclassified service was presented (Attachment 1). Senator Biggs moved to introduce the bill, motion was seconded by Senator Vratil. The motion carried.

Clint Riley, Wildlife and Parks, requested introduction of a bill on boat safety. Senator Goodwin moved to introduce the bill, motion was seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried.

Senator Stephens moved to adopt the minutes of January 25, 2000, seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried.

Secretary Steve Williams, Wildlife and Parks, gave an update regarding their roll in controlling the deer population in the state. His testimony contains:

- Deer Management Goal
- Deer Population Trend
- Major On-going Concerns
- KDWP Response to Population Trend
- Response to KDWP Management Actions
- Complicating Issues
- Future Management Options

Members of the committee asked many questions about the current programs and what can be done to be more effective in controlling the deer population. A good deal of concern was expressed about the increasing number of automobile accidents involving deer. Some members thought the current programs were not effective and other steps need to be taken to reduce the population, some suggestions were extending the season, allowing hunting during the rut, allowing farmers tags that they could sell to out of state hunters. It was suggested there is a perception by the public that nothing is being done to control the deer population so there is a lot of public frustration.

A requested was made to Secretary Williams to provide the committee with an estimate of the deer population increase over the past several years.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m., and the next meeting will be on January 28, 2000.