

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND PARKS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becky Hutchins at 3:30 p.m. on January 22, 2003 in Room 243-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Margaret Long - excused
Broderick Henderson - excused
Tom Thull - excused

Committee staff present: Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
Sarah Samuelson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: none

Others attending: See attached list

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chairperson Becky Hutchins. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

The Committee Rules (Attachment 1) were distributed. Chairperson Hutchins mentioned the location of her office, Room 502-S, and discussed the agenda for the next two meetings.

Ranking Minority Member Ethel Peterson commented that she hoped the tourism committee would provide opportunities to increase the revenue for the state.

Vice-Chairperson Judy Morrison had no comments.

Chairperson Hutchins asked for bill introductions from committee members. No bills were requested at that time.

Chairperson Hutchins asked for bill requests from the gallery. Chad Luce, representing the Department of Wildlife and Parks, requested a bill with two parts:

- to remove senior citizen exemptions from hunting and fishing licenses. The current license exemption would continue for citizens who are already 65, as these citizens would be grandfathered in. Only new senior citizens would be required to purchase licenses.
- to remove senior citizen discounts from the entry fees for the state parks

Mr. Luce said that the reason for this request is that state contributions to the Parks budget have continued to fall, and this is one way to increase revenues. The same can be said of the hunting and fishing licenses; additionally, the federal government provides aid to the state (from federal excise taxes) for every license sold, so this would be a way of reapportioning more of those federal dollars. This aid is not available for licenses given away.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chairperson Hutchins asked if these two concerns would be together in one bill request. Mr. Luce replied in the affirmative.

Representative Ray Merrick asked for a fiscal note on expected revenue increases. Mr. Luce replied that although the studies were not yet complete, his preliminary estimates would be as follows:

- a \$685,000 revenue increase in hunting and fishing licenses, including federal aid that would be reapportioned to Kansas because of the increase in collected fees.
- a \$210,000 revenue increase in Parks passes, as computed from an estimated 12,000 senior citizens entering the parks, at \$17.50 more per full-price pass than per discounted pass.

The bill was introduced as requested, without objection from the committee members.

Ranking Minority Member Peterson requested a bill clarifying regulations of the pursuit of wounded game onto private property. The bill was introduced as requested, without objection from the committee members.

Chairperson Becky Hutchins adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2003.