

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2672

As Amended by House Committee on
Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

Brief*

HB 2672, as amended, would repeal authorization for issuance of landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permits and all special hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits. The bill would create a new landowner appreciation permit (permit) that would be valid for any white-tailed deer hunting season.

The bill would require the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks (Secretary) to issue as many as two permits to any landowner who owns 80 contiguous deeded acres and applies for the permit.

The annual application period for the permits would take place during February each year, and the landowner would be required to submit specific information to the Secretary. The landowner would be required to pay an amount up to \$25 as a permit fee. [Note: The permit fee would be set by the Secretary through rules and regulations.]

The permit would authorize the permit holder to hunt on any land owned by the landowner. The bill would authorize the landowner to sell and transfer the permit to any resident or non-resident. To transfer a permit, the landowner would be required to submit a transfer form to the Secretary that would contain certain information specified by the bill. The Secretary would be required to approve or deny the transfer within five business days.

*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 also make technical amendments.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget at the request of Representative Corbet.

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) and two private citizens. The KLA representative stated that KLA is supportive of the bill with some edits, noting the KLA would like to limit the number of landowner appreciation permits being issued and allow landowners to sell the permits. The private citizens stated they supported the idea of landowner appreciation permits and being allowed to transfer and sell the permits.

Opponent testimony was provided by the Secretary, representatives of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and The Nature Conservancy, and three private citizens. The opponents generally stated that the bill would cause conservation issues by departing from generally accepted deer management practices. The opponents also stated the number of landowner appreciation permits allowed under the bill, plus the language requiring the Secretary to issue such permits, would reduce the number of general resident and nonresident permits available for purchase.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a private citizen.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Require one landowner appreciation permit to be issued to any landowner who applies for such permit for each 80 contiguous, deeded acres owned;
- Reduce the maximum number of landowner appreciation permits issued to eligible landowners from ten to two;
- Specify that the holder of a landowner appreciation permit may hunt on any land owned by the landowner; and
- Allow landowners to sell landowner appreciation permits to residents and nonresidents.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) estimates enactment of the bill would both increase expenditures and reduce revenues. KDWP indicates repealing authorization for landowner and tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permits and all special hunt-on-your-own-land (LOT) deer permits would reduce revenues to the Wildlife Fee Fund by \$702,190 for FY 2025.

In order to administer the new permits, the agency would need to develop and implement a new software program, with estimated expenditures totaling \$100,000 from the Wildlife Fee Fund in FY 2024. To monitor the new program, KDWP estimates that 1.0 FTE position at a cost of \$45,884 from the Wildlife Fee Fund starting for FY 2025 would be needed.

KDWP further estimates that allowing up to ten transferable permits to be issued to landowners would mean fewer non-landowner deer permits issued. Reducing non-

landowner permits issued would further reduce revenues to the agency's Wildlife Fee Fund. The KDWP assumes that one landowner appreciation permit would be transferred for every two LOT permits that were issued in 2022. That would result in approximately 10,680 landowner appreciation deer permits being transferred. If 70.0 percent of those permits were transferred to nonresidents, the KDWP would lose \$3.4 million each year in the Wildlife Fee Fund. If the remaining 30.0 percent were transferred to residents, revenues to the Wildlife Fee Fund would be further reduced by \$128,160 each year.

KDWP also estimates a reduction in federal revenues. Under the last apportionment for the federal fund in 2022, Kansas received an additional \$88.09 per license sale. Assuming the same number of lost sales of 10,680, it is estimated the KDWP would lose \$940,801 in federal revenues beginning in FY 2026.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; Secretary of Wildlife and Parks; landowner; hunting; hunting permits; white-tail deer