

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2671

As Amended by House Committee on
Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

Brief*

HB 2671, as amended, would allow any non-resident who enters the deer permit draw and does not obtain a white-tailed deer permit for the applicable hunting license year to receive a refund of all fees previously paid, with the exception of \$30 the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) would be allowed to retain.

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, the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks provided **opponent** testimony, stating the bill would result in reduced agency fees that normally match federal funding for which the agency relies on for program support. The Secretary also stated that no current stakeholders have expressed a desire to reduce the current fee structure.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives from Backcountry Hunters and Anglers,

*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>

Safari Club International, and two private citizens, who stated opposition to the reduced revenue for the agency, which would reduce funding for conservation efforts and management of natural resources.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the of the Nature Conservancy.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Make no changes to the fees charged to non-residents;
- Specify that refunds would only be issued to unsuccessful applicants for non-resident white-tailed deer permits and that KDWP may retain \$30 of fees previously paid; and
- Further specify that only those non-residents who enter the deer permit draw and are unsuccessful would be eligible for refunds.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the KDWP estimates enactment of the bill would result in a decrease in the Wildlife Fee Fund for hunter licenses of \$7.0 million in FY 2025. KDWP further estimates that reductions in application fees and draw permits costs would result in a decline of revenue to the Wildlife Fee Fund by \$10.8 million for FY 2025.

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

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; hunting permit; non-resident; deer permit draw; white-tailed deer