

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Ronald Ellis, Chairperson
House Committee on Veterans and Military
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 281-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Ellis:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2039 by Representative Waymaster

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2039 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

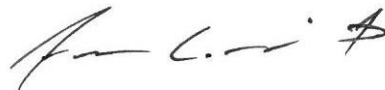
HB 2039 would no longer require a disabled veteran who lives in Kansas to have a valid fishing or hunting license in order to fish or hunt small game. The bill would define “disabled veteran” as being a service-connected disability equal to or greater than 50.0 percent. The bill would no longer exempt residents 75 years and older from obtaining a fishing or hunting license in order to fish or hunt. The bill would also no longer allow for half-priced annual hunting, fishing, and a combination of hunting and fishing licenses for residents between the ages of 65 and 74 years of age.

Under current law, \$69,827 from the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) is appropriated to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for reimbursement of annual hunting, fishing, or combination licenses for veterans with service-connected disabilities equal to or greater than 30.0 percent. The EDIF is used to reimburse the Wildlife Fee Fund for each annual license issued, then each license issued is used to receive federal funds. Because the bill requires that qualified disabled veterans would no longer be issued a license, the agency would no longer receive federal funds for those veterans. The agency estimates a loss of \$28,158 in federal funds each year starting in FY 2024. The Department has no way to estimate how many veterans would be affected by the change from the 30.0 percent to 50.0 percent disability rating. The Department also states that if current license holders that fall between 30.0 and 50.0 percent do not purchase a license under this bill, then the Department would see a reduction in federal funds each year; however, the agency cannot estimate the amount of fee and federal funds that could be lost if the bill is enacted.

For the removal of half-priced licenses for those 65 to 74 years of age, the Department of Wildlife and Parks estimates that it would receive an additional \$8,888 each year in license fees that would be deposited into the Wildlife Fee Fund. In addition, requiring those 75 years and older to obtain an annual hunting or fishing license cannot be estimated since that age group currently is not required to purchase a license. However, the agency does anticipate this change would increase Wildlife Fee Fund and federal fund revenues.

The Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs Office states that enactment of HB 2039 would not have a fiscal effect because the agency already verifies the service-connected disabled veterans who apply for hunting and fishing licenses. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2039 is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Terry Bruce, Department of Wildlife & Parks
Crystal Hewitt, Commission on Veterans Affairs