

Hunter Education Deferrals; Purchase of Land in Cherokee and Pottawatomie Counties; Unlawfully Taken Wildlife Items; SB 357

SB 357 increases the number of deferrals from one to two for the completion of hunter education for a person who is 16 or more years of age. Each deferral will be valid until the end of the license year in which a license is purchased.

The bill also authorizes the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) to purchase a parcel of land of approximately 398 acres in Cherokee County and a parcel of land of approximately 484 acres in Pottawatomie County.

In addition, the bill changes the options available to KDWPT in disposing of unlawfully taken wildlife items. Under the bill, the KDWPT is required to first offer the seized item to the landowner or tenant on whose property the wildlife parts were unlawfully taken, provided:

- The wildlife parts are no longer needed as evidence;
- The location of the violation can be positively ascertained;
- There is no dispute between landowners or tenants as to who may receive the wildlife parts;
- The landowner or tenant did not commit the violation for which the wildlife parts were seized; and
- The wildlife parts are transferred within two years of adjudication of the violation.

If the landowner or tenant declines the offer, the KDWPT may dispose of the seized item by any of the following methods:

- Sell the seized item (existing law);
- Retain the seized item for educational, scientific, or department operational purposes (existing law); or
- Destroy the item (new law).