

February 17, 2011

The Honorable Larry Powell, Chairperson
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Statehouse, Room 149-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Powell:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2295 by House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2295 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2295 would amend and make technical corrections to a number of existing laws concerning the regulation of hunting. Current law exempts a landowner or tenant or a member of that person's immediate family who lives with the landowner or tenant, and who is hunting on land owned or leased by the individual from the requirement to have a valid hunting license. Current law also allows members of a landowner's or tenant's immediate family who live with the landowner or tenant to apply for resident big game permits as landowners or tenants. In both cases, the bill would remove the requirement that the family member live with the landowner or tenant. Existing law allowing only persons with permanent disabilities, such that they cannot use a conventional long bow or compound bow, to use a crossbow would be changed to allow any person to use a crossbow. The bill would also prohibit the extended season for female white-tailed deer hunting with firearms from ending prior to January 23, 2012. Fees for non-resident big game and mule deer permits and non-resident big game applications would be increased to \$800, \$300, and \$50, respectively.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks states that passage of HB 2295 would cause significant reductions to the agency's revenues. Although the agency is unable to estimate the amount of the expected loss in revenue, it was able to provide some examples of how the revenues would be affected. While there would be some increase in revenue from increases in the fees for non-resident big game and mule deer permits and non-resident big game applications, many of the people who would have purchased these permits would be exempt upon passage of the bill because they would also be non-resident relatives of landowners or tenants. Exemptions in statute for certain constituents would also erode revenues for the Fish and Wildlife program, which is fee funded. These exemptions could initially increase the number of participants. However, because they also reduce revenues, they reduce the agency's ability to provide services to the increased number of participants, including those who are not exempt and continue to pay full price for licenses. Eventually this reduction of services could result in decreasing numbers of participants who pay full price.

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Another example of the bill leading to reduced revenues relates to the requirement that anyone purchasing a deer permit also pay \$2 to the Kansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry (KHFH) program. This requirement would result in a loss of federal funds and possible ineligibility for future federal funds as, under the agreement between the agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, collecting this fee and delivering it to the KHFH program would be considered a diversion of funds. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2295 is not reflected in *The FY 2012 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven J. Anderson", written in a cursive style.

Steven J. Anderson, CPA, MBA
Director of the Budget

cc: Dick Koerth, W&P