

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2149

As Amended by House Committee on
Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

Brief*

HB 2149 would lower the aggregate threshold amount that would require approval by act of the Legislature from 640 acres to 160 acres of land purchased by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The bill also would remove the exception that currently allows for a purchase of land without such legislative approval from a private individual if the purchase price is less than the appraised value of the land. Finally, the bill would allow the State Finance Council to give approval of land purchases when the Legislature is not in session.

Background

The Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) provided written testimony as a proponent of the bill. The testimony states that the KFB has general policy that opposes increasing the number of acres owned by the state or federal government in Kansas. Additionally, the policy encourages leasing of land, rather than purchase, for hunting and fishing activities. The statement from KFB states that it realizes that HB 2149 does not prevent acquisition of publicly owned land by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, but does reduce the acreage allowed to be purchased without legislative oversight and approval.

The Acting Secretary of Wildlife and Parks, Robin Jennison, testified as an opponent of the bill. The Department

*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>

does not object to the intent of the bill, but rather has concerns that the provisions of the bill do not allow the Department to address situations that may occur in which it would be to the benefit of the state to acquire property in a timely manner, such as when the Legislature is not in session. The Acting Secretary requested that the Committee amend the bill to allow the State Finance Council to approve land acquisitions during the times that Legislature is not in session. The Committee adopted this amendment.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicates that the original bill would not have an effect on the state's revenue or expenditures.