

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 152

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Natural Resources

Brief*

SB 152 would permit a person with a concealed carry license to carry a concealed handgun while lawfully hunting, fishing, or fur harvesting. The bill also would permit a person with a legally acquired suppression device to use the device while lawfully hunting, fishing, or fur harvesting.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources at the request of Senator Terry Bruce.

Proponents on SB 152 included the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), the National Rifle Association, the Kansas State Rifle Association, and a member of the public.

The Chief Legal Counsel of the KDWP testified that concealed carry has long been allowed while hunting or angling, except during archery only seasons and spotlighting. After passage of the Personal and Family Protection Act in 2007, the KDWP requested an Attorney General's opinion, which resulted in the KDWP's narrowly tailored prohibitions on concealed carry taking precedence over the broader allowances of the Act.

The KDWP's Chief Legal Counsel also explained that suppressors can be used for hunting prairie dogs and for not

*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>

disturbing one's neighbors while hunting. In response to a question, he stated that even with the use of a suppressor the sound of the gun would be muffled, but it would still be loud.

The KDWP believes there would be no biological impact from the passage of the bill.

The State Lobbyist of the National Rifle Association testified that the bill would allow bow hunters to protect themselves from dangerous predators by using a weapon other than the one for which they are licensed. The President of the Kansas State Rifle Association testified that they have received many reports of hunters happening upon situations that made them feel that their personal safety was in peril. The member of the public described a number of situations encountered while hunting alone when personal safety was in jeopardy and more protection was desired.

No neutral or opposition testimony was provided.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states that the passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect.