

SESSION OF 2015

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 120**

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

**Brief\***

SB 120 would exempt the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) from law regarding certain land purchases in four counties. The bill also would amend law regarding purchase of tracts of land throughout the state.

Current law states the purchase of land greater than 320 acres in the aggregate by the KDWPT must be approved by the Legislature. The bill would lower that amount from 320 acres to 160 acres. In addition, the bill would exempt KDWPT from that limit only for land purchases less than 640 acres, purchased with Natural Resource Damage and Restoration funds, in Cherokee, Crawford, Labette, and Neosho counties.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

At the Senate Committee hearing on the bill, the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism presented testimony in favor of the bill. The Secretary stated by allowing purchases with Natural Resource Damage and Restoration funds without the approval of the Legislature, the KDWPT will be able to utilize federal funds in a timely manner, to the benefit of the citizens of the state.

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\*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>

A representative of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) also provided testimony in support of the bill. The KDHE representative stated the source of funding for the projects is from settlements with private companies and no state money would be spent to acquire or manage the properties. The KDHE representative stated the KDWPT would be able to move quickly to acquire property when a seller is identified.

A representative of the Kansas Farm Bureau provided testimony against the bill, stating the Kansas Farm Bureau members would prefer the KDWPT lease the land, rather than purchase the land. The representative also stated the Kansas Farm Bureau opposes the use of tax and fee revenues for the acquisition of any private land.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill, lowering the aggregate amount of purchased land that would need to be approved by the Legislature from 320 acres to 160 acres. The lands purchased with Natural Resource Damage and Restoration Funds would be limited to four counties in Southeast Kansas and would be exempted from Legislative approval only for amounts less than 640 acres.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the introduced version of the bill, enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the KDWPT.