

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KEN CORBET
54TH DISTRICT

Chairman Kerschen and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

Today I would like to discuss with you an issue that could significantly boost the economy of rural Kansas, transferable deer permits. Kansas has some of the best hunting in the country and it is one of our leading tourist attractions. With that said, there is significant room for improvement.

There are over 43 million acres of farm and ranch land in Kansas. Many private landowners are not willing to open up their lands to public hunting due to potential risks. These closed off lands hold a thriving deer population. HB 2167 would give landowners the ability to transfer land owner deer permits to non-Kansas residents. This would encourage land owners to open up their lands to hunting by giving the land owner the ability to make a profit by selling the deer permit to an out of state hunter who would then hunt on that landowners property.

There is much talk these days about rural revitalization. The Kansas deer population is a valuable natural resource that is underutilized. By allowing transferable deer permits, our rural areas would see an influx of out of state hunters. Not only would rural land owners make a profit by selling their permits, our rural communities would also benefit. Every out of state hunter who visits Kansas puts money into local restaurants, motels, bed & breakfasts, convenience stores, and other local businesses. This is a simple thing that can be done to help our rural communities. There are mechanisms in place in HB 2167 that would prevent the transfer system from placing a fiscal burden on the state.

I ask that you strongly consider passing HB 2167 out of committee.

Rep. Ken Corbet
District 54

There has been a lot of misinformation spread about HB 2167. Here are some facts:

- 1. This will allow farmers and ranchers to help with crop depravation, but more importantly, it will promote rural revitalization in all 105 counties. Also, it will open up thousands of private acres for Kansas hunters and their kids to enjoy. This will benefit local restaurants, motels, and convenience stores. And make Kansas the most outdoor-friendly state in the country.**

- 2. Regarding concerns this will wipe out the deer population: Chris Tymeson, Chief Counsel for Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, on March 5, 2018: “Well, I don’t think that deer transferable permits will do anything to adjust the deer population.”**
- 3. ONLY one transferrable permit per land owner. For example, 80 or 8 million acres a landowner can receive only—one transferable permit!**
- 4. There are over 43 million acres of farm ground in Kansas.**
- 5. This bill sunsets in five years. That means in five years the results will be examined and a determination will be made on the best course going forward.**
- 6. A transfer can ONLY occur only if all the non-resident deer permits have been issued for the management unit location of the landowner or tenant permit.**
- 7. A landowner or tenant CANNOT transfer their permit to a non-resident who has already been issued a permit. That means there will be no hoarding of permits**
- 8. A landowner or tenant can ONLY transfer ONE permit during the hunting season.**
- 9. KDWPPT can require the recipient of the permit to ONLY hunt on the landowner or tenant’s land.**
- 10. Kansas Farm Bureau and Kansas Livestock Association have come out in support of HB 2167. It is a winner for rural Kansas, farmers, and ranchers.**

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■ The last 3 years there has been about 4500 out of State deer hunters who could not get a tag. 4500 tags at \$550 each would have brought **\$2,475,000*** to the KDWPT.

■ The National Shooting Sports Foundation says that every out-of-state hunter will spend about \$1200 for gas, meals, shopping lodging, etc. while in Kansas. So the 4500 hunters who were turned away kept about **\$4,950,000.00*** out of the rural Kansas economy.

*2.475 million + 5.4 million means it has been a **\$7.9 million dollar loss** to the Kansas economy.

■ These deer permits already exist. The only change is that Kansas farmers and ranchers will be able to use their tag or transfer it to an out-of-state deer hunter.

■ Sunset provision—expires January 1, 2024

■ Maybe by fixing this and passing this rural revitalization bill, it may allow one more generation to remain in Rural Kansas.

KANSAS RURAL REVITALIZATION - HB 2167 - 2019

- **The Purchase of a Kansas deer Permit < DOES Not > guarantee you a Deer.**
- **The Purchase of a Kansas lottery ticket < DOES Not > guarantee you to be a Winner.**
- **BUT when they are sold KDWPT and , KANSAS are WINNERS .**
- **REMEMBER they are Both just PAPER.. one gives you a chance to hunt a Deer and one gives you a chance to WIN the Lottery.**
- **I urge this committee to pass out HB 2167 . Its NOT a guaranteed DEER but just a piece of PAPER.**

Chris Tymeson, Chief Counsel for Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, testifying to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations, March 5, 2018



“Well, I don’t think that deer transferable permits will do anything to adjust the deer population.”

This bill directs the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) to create a system to allow landowners or tenants to transfer their hunt-your-own-land whitetail deer permit if certain conditions are met. The bill sunsets in five years. The conditions of transfer are as follows:

- A transfer can ONLY occur if all the non-resident deer permits have been issued for the management unit location of the landowner or tenant permit.
- A landowner or tenant can NOT transfer their permit to a non-resident who has already been issued a permit.
- A landowner or tenant can ONLY transfer a single permit during the hunting season.
- KDWPT can require the recipient of the permit to ONLY hunt on the landowner or tenant's land.

KDWPT operates an online permitting system. The information already provided to purchase permits can be used to ensure a landowner/tenant does not transfer more than one permit and a transferee does not obtain more than one permit.

If you base this bill on current fees and law, KDWPT will earn the following with the system:

1. The landowner or tenant will need to purchase white-tail deer permit at the cost of
 - A. \$22.50 for a resident landowner/tenant, or
 - B. \$87.50 for nonresident landowner/tenant.
2. The non-resident transferee will need to purchase a hunting license at the cost of \$97.50.
3. KDWPT may charge a transfer fee of up to \$221.25 for antlered deer or no more than the cost of the original permit (\$22.50 if transferred from a resident landowner/tenant) for antlerless deer.

The Kansas Livestock Association is in support of this bill and helped draft both the bill and committee amendments.

The Kansas Farm Bureau is in support of this bill.

HOUSE BILL No. 2167

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

2-6

1 AN ACT concerning wildlife; relating to the transferability of deer
2 permits.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) The secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism shall
6 establish a system to approve and administer the transfer of regular
7 landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permits issued under
8 K.S.A. 32-937(g), and amendments thereto, from the original recipient of
9 the permit to a nonresident of the state of Kansas solely for the purpose of
10 hunting white-tailed deer.

11 (b) The transfer system established under subsection (a) shall meet
12 the following requirements:

13 (1) Any transfer shall not occur until all nonresident hunting permits
14 issued under K.S.A. 32-937(l), and amendments thereto, have been filled
15 in each management unit where the regular landowner or tenant hunt-on-
16 your-own-land big game permit was issued for the applicable white-tailed
17 deer season;

18 (2) any recipient of a nonresident hunting permit issued under K.S.A.
19 32-937(l), and amendments thereto, is not eligible for a transfer under this
20 section during the applicable white-tailed deer season of the permit issued
21 under K.S.A. 32-937(l), and amendments thereto;

22 (3) the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism shall allow the
23 transferee to designate whether the transferee will hunt both antlered and
24 antlerless white-tailed deer or only antlerless white-tailed deer pursuant to
25 the permit transferred under this section;

26 (4) the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism may charge a transfer
27 fee, not to exceed half the cost of a nonresident hunting permit issued
28 under K.S.A. 32-937(l), and amendments thereto, for transfers designated
29 for antlered and antlerless white-tailed deer, and not to exceed the cost of
30 the original permit for the regular landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-
31 land big game permits under K.S.A. 32-937(g), and amendments thereto,
32 for transfers designated for antlerless white-tailed deer;

33 (5) the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism may restrict the
34 location that the transferee may hunt white tailed deer to the same
35 area that the landowner or tenant was eligible to hunt;

36 (6) the number of regular landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-

HB 2167—Am. by HC

2

1 own-land big game permits to be transferred pursuant to the transfer
2 system established under subsection (a) shall be limited to one per
3 landowner or tenant; and

4 ~~(5)~~(7) the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism shall not prohibit
5 nor restrict the sale of regular landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land
6 big game permits under K.S.A. 32-937(g), and amendments thereto, by the
7 original permit holder to a nonresident, so long as the transfer is approved
8 under the transfer system established by the secretary pursuant to this
9 section.

(c) The provisions of this section shall expire on January 31, 2024.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
publication in the statute book.