

SESSION OF 2020

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2621**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Agriculture

**Brief\***

HB 2621 would authorize the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (Secretary) to acquire by purchase approximately 493 acres of property in Kingman County, subject to law that requires the Secretary to certify the land complies with the Kansas Noxious Weed Law, agree to make payment in lieu of taxes, and develop a management plan for the property.

The bill would exempt the purchase from current competitive bid procedures and purchasing authority requirements. The bill would also allow the Secretary to purchase the property using the correct legal description of the property, should the description in the bill be incorrect.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

**Background**

The bill was introduced in the House Committee on Agriculture at the request of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT).

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Thimesch and the Secretary provided proponent testimony on the bill, stating the KDWPT proposes to purchase 493 acres of property owned by Ducks Unlimited in Kingman County

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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>

that is adjacent to the Byron Walker Wildlife Area. The proponents added the proposed purchase of this property is a result of a long collaborative process resulting in agreement between state and local officials, private individuals, and non-governmental stakeholders.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by Representative Seiwert, Ducks Unlimited, and the Kansas Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the KDWPT states the agency does not have an estimate on the purchase price of the property because the property has not been appraised. The agency indicates there would be a cost to maintain the grounds; however, the estimate is unknown. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.