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## **HOUSE BILL No. 2471**

By Committee on Environment

2-9

AN ACT creating the Kansas natural resource legacy alliance; providing for development of a vision for the state's natural resources.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) There is hereby created the Kansas natural resource legacy alliance.

- (b) The alliance shall consist of the following appointed members:
- (1) Three members appointed by the president of the senate;
- 2) two members appointed by the minority leader of the senate;
- (3) three members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (4) two members appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; and
  - (5) three members appointed by the governor.
- (c) The following shall be nonvoting members *ex officio* of the alliance:
  - (1) The secretary of wildlife and parks or the secretary's designee;
  - 2) the secretary of agriculture or the secretary's designee;
- (3) the executive director of the state conservation commission or the executive director's designee;
- (4) the secretary of health and environment or the secretary's designee;
- (5) the director of the Kansas water office or the director's designee; and
  - (6) the state forester or the state forester's designee.
- (d) Officers making appointments pursuant to subsection (b) shall consult and coordinate among themselves in making the appointments in order to achieve a membership that represents a balance of knowledge and experience among interests in natural resources, environmental interests and related economic interests, including parks and recreation, soil and water conservation, travel and tourism, economic development, outdoor recreation, landowners and homeowners, fish and wildlife, forest resources and municipalities. In making the appointments, the officers shall solicit and allow an opportunity for recommendations by interested

groups and individual citizens.

Sec. 2. (a) The alliance shall develop a vision for the state's natural resources that will assure an decent economic standard, economic development, a healthy environment, protection of natural resources, opportunities for natural resource and environmental education and quality of life for Kansas families and individual citizens. In developing the vision, the alliance shall:

- (1) Conduct public hearings across the state to seek citizen input and provide information to the public;
  - (2) seek input from state and local governmental agencies;
- (3) examine the state's current natural resource and environment programs;
- (4) consider the impact of the state's natural resources and programs on economic development;
  - (5) examine the state's current and future resource needs;
- (6) expand public/private partnerships that support and implement the vision; and
- (7) develop goals and establish priorities for attaining the vision, including, but not limited to, goals and priorities for outdoor recreation, tourism, economic development, natural resource and environmental education, quality of life, water quality, water supplies, fish and wildlife resources, **prairie and grassland resources**, forest resources, parks and lakes, wetlands and riparian areas, soil and water conservation and air quality.
- (b) The alliance shall submit a preliminary report of its activities and recommendations to the governor and the legislature on or before January 25, 2002, and shall submit a final report and recommendations to the governor and legislature on or before January 24, 2003.
- Sec. 3. (a) The alliance shall meet at least once each calendar quarter. The first meeting shall be called by the governor, at which time the alliance shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. Thereafter, the alliance shall meet on call of the chairperson or on written request of a majority of the members. The alliance may hold its meetings at such times and at such places within the state as the members determine appropriate.
- (b) The alliance shall be attached to the department of wildlife and parks as a part thereof. All budgeting, purchasing and related management functions of the alliance shall be administered by the secretary of wildlife and parks. The secretary of wildlife and parks shall provide office and meeting space and such clerical and other staff assistance as may be necessary to assist the committee alliance in carrying out its powers, duties and functions under this act. Within the limits of appropriations therefor, the alliance may employ a staff member to assist the alliance in carrying out the alliance's duties under this act.

- (c) Members of the alliance specified in subsection (b) of section 1, and amendments thereto, shall receive compensation, subsistence allowances, mileage and other expenses as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223, and amendments thereto.
  - Sec. 4. The provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2003.
- Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.