

SESSION OF 2003

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
SENATE BILL NO. 43**

As Agreed to April 2, 2003

**Brief \***

The bill, as amended, would increase service fees charged for issuing licenses, permits and stamps provided by the Department of Wildlife and Parks. County clerks, private vendors and the agency currently sell the various documents and the service fee would rise from \$.50 to \$1.00 on licenses, permits and stamps, and from \$.25 to \$.50 on state migratory waterfowl stamps.

In addition, the bill would authorize the agency to contract with private vendors to sell licenses and other documents over the telephone or internet, and also would allow additional service fees to be charged under the provisions of a contract with the agency.

The bill also would repeal sunset of a provision which allows persons with unpaid camping or vehicle entry fees at State Parks to avoid being issued a citation if they either (1) pay both the permit fee and a \$15 late payment fee within 24 hours; or (2) purchase an annual vehicle or camping permit.

Finally, the bill would modify KSA 2002 Supp. 32-964 pertaining to commercial guide services and add a valid commercial guide permit or associate guide permit would be required only while hunting big game or migratory waterfowl.

The bill would be effective July 1, 2003.

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\*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. The conference committee summary report may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/klrd>

## **Background**

The bill was requested by the Department of Wildlife and Parks. It was noted that the service fees had not been increased since 1989. About two-thirds of the various sales are handled by the county clerks and local vendors on behalf of the agency. The agency currently contracts with the Information Network of Kansas to issue licenses over the internet and the contract allows for a service fee of \$1.75 to be collected.

The House Appropriations Committee amendment was requested by the agency to repeal a sunset provision. It was pointed out that a diversion arrangement was passed by the 2001 Legislature, but a December 31, 2003, sunset on the provision was included. Of the approximately 3,500 violations in CY 2002 for failure to have proper park permits, approximately 1,500 people chose to purchase the annual permit. Most of these purchases took place early in the season. All except 260 of the approximately 2,000 others paid for daily permits and the \$15 late fee. The 260 cases had citations issued that required court appearances. Removing the sunset date will make the diversion permanent and the agency indicates it is in the public interest to be customer friendly rather than adversarial as is the case with citations and court appearances.

The House floor amendment was offered by Representative Larry Powell as a further exemption to KSA 2002 Supp. 32-964 that regulates commercial guides services and defines who must obtain permits. The amendment references KSA 32-943 that pertains to controlled shooting areas and defines "game birds."

The Conference Committee amendments would further clarify provisions of law relative to commercial guide services by deleting references to fishing and adding reference to big game or migratory waterfowl hunting. References to KSA 2002 Supp. 32-943 and KSA 32-911 were removed.

The fiscal note indicates that the agency would received an estimated \$300,000 increase in services fees and that the vendors, including county clerks, would receive an estimated \$640,000 increase. The bill as introduced was supported by the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association.