

SESSION OF 2003

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 221

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Natural Resources

Brief*

SB 221 would require that hunters have a valid upland game bird restoration stamp in order to hunt game birds commencing January 1, 2004. The stamp would not be required for those who by law are not required to possess a hunting license. The fee for the upland game bird restoration stamp would be established by the Department of Wildlife and Parks, but could not exceed \$10. Money from the stamp would be credited to the Upland Game Bird Restoration Fee Fund, which would be created by the bill. Half of the money in the Fund would be used to increase public access to private land and half would be used to increase upland game bird habitats on private property. The bill would prohibit any of the money in the Fund from being expended to purchase private property. Those individuals with a controlled shooting area hunting license would not be required to have the upland game bird restoration stamp.

The bill would require the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to annually report to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the House Committee on Environment, and the House Committee on Tourism and Parks about the activities under the bill beginning on February 1, 2005.

Background

At the hearing on the bill, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources heard from a number of conferees. One conferee spoke about the activities of the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative about the trends in population of the Northern Bobwhite. The following groups had representatives supporting the bill: Pheasants Forever, the Kansas Livestock Association, and the Kansas Sport

*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/klrd>

Hunting Association. A representative of the Kansas Farm Bureau made comments on the bill. A private individual from Clay Center appeared in support of the bill. Several of these conferees had suggestions for amendments to the bill which they believed would make the bill better. The Secretary of Wildlife and Parks appeared and stated that the agency supports the stamp, but believes that the bill is too restrictive and does not address the long-term needs of the state.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to change the fee for the stamp from a set \$10 to a maximum of \$10, to require the annual report to certain committees, to not require the stamp for hunting on controlled shooting areas, and to make the effective date for the requirement of the stamp January 1, 2004. There was one other technical amendment.

The fiscal note on the original bill indicates that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks believes that revenues to the state would increase by \$1.3 million in FY 2004. This figure does not reflect the amendments to the original bill.