

SESSION OF 2004

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2573**

As Agreed to March 30, 2004

Brief *

HB 2573, as amended, pertains to requirements for persons designated to assist disabled licensees. Existing law allows a person having a permanent physical or visual disability which prevents that person from safely hunting or fishing to obtain a disability assistance permit. The permit allows the holder to designate another person to take, on behalf of the permit holder, a legal limit of game or fish. The bill would provide that the person designated by the permit holder would not be required to purchase any licenses, permits, stamps, or any other issues of the Department of Wildlife and Parks otherwise required for fishing and hunting.

The bill would require the permit holder to accompany into the field and be in close proximity to the person designated by the permit holder. In addition, the bill would not allow the person designated by the permit holder to be a person whose fishing, hunting, or furharvesting license has been suspended, restricted, or revoked during the time the person is aiding the permit holder.

Conference Committee Action. The Conference Committee amended the language dealing with the person aiding the permit holder by clarifying that the person designated by the permit holder could not be a person whose fishing, hunting, or furharvesting license is currently suspended, restricted, or revoked.

Background

HB 2573, as introduced, was supported by Chris Walker, Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc., El Dorado, Kansas and

*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/kldr>

Chris Tymeson, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. No one testified against the bill in the House Tourism and Parks Committee.

The House Tourism and Parks Committee amendment would provide that persons assisting a disabled person would not have to purchase a fishing or hunting license, permit, stamps, or other forms of authority from the Department of Wildlife and Parks. The original bill would have applied only to designees who accompanied a disabled person on fishing outings.

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources amended the bill to require that the permit holder accompany into the field and be in close proximity to the activity. It also amended the bill to prohibit a person whose fishing, hunting, or furharvesting license has been suspended, restricted, or revoked from aiding a permit holder.

The fiscal note on the original bill indicates that the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks expects a reduction in license fee revenues to the Wildlife Fee Fund of approximately \$475 annually. The note states that the Department currently issues 25 fishing licenses at no cost to persons with disabilities. The cost to an assistant is the regular license fee of \$18 plus \$1 service fee. The maximum cost if each permit holder had only one assistant is \$475 (\$19 X 25).