

SESSION OF 2005

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 194

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 194 would authorize the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission to issue commission permits to take big game. The permits would be made available only to nonprofit organizations that actively promote wildlife conservation and the hunting and fishing heritage. Organizations that oppose hunting and fishing would not be eligible for award of a commission permit.

The issuance of commission permits would be subject to the following limitations:

- ! not more than one permit allowing the taking of an antelope would be issued in a calendar year;
- ! not more than one permit allowing the taking of an elk would be issued in a calendar year;
- ! any deer permits may comprise the entire allotment or the balance of the total quota if permits for other species are issued;
- ! a total of not more than seven commission permits would be available in one calendar year; and
- ! commission permits would not be included in nor reduce any limited quota permit allotments set by other rules and regulations of the Secretary.

Organizations receiving commission permits would market the permit to the public in order to receive the maximum financial benefit

*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>

available for the organization and the Department. The Commission would conduct a random drawing from the pool of eligible qualified organizations to award commission permits, subject to the approval of the Secretary. Organizations would not be eligible to receive the permit more than once in a three-year period.

Organizations awarded the commission permits would pay to the agency the price established by rules and regulations for the highest value for the type of permit awarded. The balance of the sale price for the permit would be retained by the organization, of which not less than 85 percent would be used to supplement Department sponsored or approved projects. If the organization which obtains the permit is Kansas Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, not less than 15 percent of the amount retained by the organization would be used to supplement Department sponsored or approved projects.

Finally, the bill permits the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

Background

This bill was introduced at the request of a spokesperson from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) who, at the hearing on the bill, indicated that the Department asked for its introduction at the behest of constituent groups. The Committee heard that many western states have used these types of permits for years in order to promote wildlife conservation and the hunting and fishing heritage. Also appearing in support of the bill was a representative of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources amended the bill to change the percentage of money to be used to supplement KDWP sponsored and approved projects from 50 percent to 85 percent. The Committee also amended the language with respect to the approved projects to delete the requirement that the project be one related to the species for which the commission permit is valid. Other amendments were technical.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to provide that Kansas Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry would retain a larger proportion of the net proceeds from a commission permit.

The fiscal note on the original bill states that the bill may generate some additional revenue for the agency, but that it is not possible to determine an amount.