

HOUSE BILL No. 2783

By Committee on Agriculture

1-31

9 AN ACT concerning wildlife; relating to prairie dogs; management and
10 control; repealing K.S.A. 80-1201, 80-1202, 80-1203, 80-1204, 80-
11 1205, 80-1206, 80-1207 and 80-1208.

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

14 Section 1. (a) The township board of any township in this state or
15 the county commission of any county in this state at any regular or special
16 meeting, is authorized to purchase material and to employ one or more
17 suitable persons to manage or control, or both, prairie dogs within the
18 limits of such township or county. Any material so purchased and com-
19 pensation for such services shall be paid out of the general fund of such
20 township or county.

21 (b) The Kansas department of wildlife and parks, the Kansas depart-
22 ment of agriculture and Kansas state university research and extension
23 service are authorized to assist township boards, counties and landowners
24 with management or control, or both, of black-tailed prairie dog colonies.
25 Assistance may include, but is not limited to:

26 (1) Development and distribution of educational information and
27 management plan templates;

28 (2) technical assistance with preparation and implementation of man-
29 agement plans;

30 (3) research;

31 (4) cost-share assistance and distribution of equipment and materials
32 used for purposes of management or control, or both, of prairie dog col-
33 onies or populations, or to curtail dispersal;

34 (5) incentive payments for cooperative wildlife habitat enhancement
35 and species conservation programs associated with prairie dog colonies
36 and related range and livestock management practices, range restoration
37 and grassland conservation programs;

38 (6) development of conservation programs, both state sponsored and
39 cooperative, for landowners who are receptive to management of black-
40 tailed prairie dog colonies to prevent the species from becoming threat-
41 ened or endangered or to provide habitat for other species dependent
42 upon or associated with prairie dog colonies, including, but not limited
43 to, the black-footed ferret, burrowing owl, golden eagle, ferruginous

- 1 hawk, swift fox and mountain plover, or both; and
- 2 (7) development of programs, both state sponsored and cooperative,
- 3 for prairie dog control or management, or both, to assist owners of land
- 4 adjacent to land enrolled in a state of federal sanctioned prairie dog con-
- 5 servation program.
- 6 (c) Landowners may employ voluntary candidate conservation agree-
- 7 ments with assurances or safe harbors agreements for a federally desig-
- 8 nated candidate or federally listed species as part of the landowners' prai-
- 9 rie dog management plans and may participate in related incentive
- 10 programs offered by federal agencies.
- 11 (d) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent a landowner from
- 12 voluntarily eliminating prairie dogs from the landowner's land.
- 13 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 80-1201, 80-1202, 80-1203, 80-1204, 80-1205, 80-
- 14 1206, 80-1207 and 80-1208 are hereby repealed.
- 15 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
- 16 publication in the statute book.