

SESSION OF 2007

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
SENATE BILL NO. 192**

As Agreed to March 29, 2007

**Brief\***

Commission Permits Receipts and Hunt of a Lifetime Permits

SB 192 would amend the statute that authorizes the Wildlife and Parks Commission, subject to the limitations set out in the law, to issue permits to take big game to nonprofit organizations that actively promote wildlife conservation and a hunting and fishing heritage. The amendment would limit the issuing of big game permits to local chapters of nonprofit organizations that are based in Kansas or operating in Kansas.

In addition, the bill would permit the Wildlife and Parks Commission to issue youth hunt of a lifetime permits to take deer. These permits would be available only to nonprofit organizations based or operating in Kansas that actively promote hunting for youth under 21 years of age who are handicapped or experiencing life threatening illnesses. The bill, among other things, would:

- Limit the number of these types of permits to 10 in any calendar year;
- Not be included in, nor reduce, any limited quota permit allotments;
- Require the Commission to conduct random drawings from the pool of qualified organizations;
- Subject the permits to restrictions of the season, sex,

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equipment type, or hunt units; and

- Require organizations awarded permits to provide the Department a final report on the use of the permit within 30 days following the close of the season for which the permit is valid.

The bill also would grant rule and regulation authority to the Secretary of the Department to administer this portion of the bill.

#### Wildlife and Parks Commission Membership

In addition, the bill would modify the requirements in KSA 32-805 relating to members of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission. The bill would require that one member of the Commission come from each Fish and Wildlife Administration Region, as established by the Department of Wildlife and Parks. The bill also would make several technical changes to the existing statutory language.

Further, the bill would permit a person who is 16 or more years of age to obtain a one-time deferral of completion of hunter education before hunting in this state. The deferral would be valid until the end of the current license year for which the deferral was issued. Individuals eligible for the hunter educational deferral would be able to purchase an apprentice hunting license and would be required to hunt only under the direct supervision of a licensed adult who is 18 or more years of age.

The bill also would delete current law which prohibits the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks from issuing a big game permit using a bow to a person under 14 without presenting evidence of the completion of a bow hunting safety education course.

## **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee on SB 192:

- 1) Eliminated language which would have increased the fee for a nonresident big game permit by \$10, the proceeds from such would have been deposited in the Feed the Hungry Fund;
- 2) Included the provisions of HB 2002, relating to the appointment of the members of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission to ensure that one member is from each of the Fish and Wildlife Administration Regions (This bill had already been adopted by the Legislature, but due to an error, the Governor did not sign the bill in the exact form adopted by the Legislature and, therefore, needs to be reenacted.); and
- 3) Included the provisions of SB 189, as amended by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, relating to the establishment of a one-time deferral of completion of hunter education and deletion of a provision which prohibits the issuance of a big game permit using a bow to a person under 14 years of age without evidence of the completion of a bow hunting safety education course.

## **Background**

SB 192 was introduced at the request of the Department of Wildlife and Parks whose representative also appeared in support of the bill. Written support was presented by a representative of the Audubon Society. According to the testimony, in 2006, the first year the authority to issue permits was available, Wildlife and Parks received 59 applications for the seven available permits; and in 2007, there were 119 applicants. In 2006, the organizations receiving permits auctioned them and raised \$49,000 for conservation projects in which the Department and the nonprofit organization receiving a big game permit cooperate. Some applications for the

drawing for permits this year were from chapters of nonprofit organizations based outside the state. While no permits were awarded to out-of-state applicants, the Department asks that the statute be amended to make it clear that applicants for the drawing for big game permits are limited to local chapters of nonprofit organizations that are based in Kansas or that operate in Kansas.

The Senate Committee amendment is technical.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to increase the fee for nonresident big game deer permits and have the money deposited in the Feed the Hungry Fund. In addition, the House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to allow the issuance of youth hunt of a lifetime deer permits to take deer.

The fiscal note on the original bill states that there is no fiscal impact from the passage of the bill.

big game wildlife conservation one-time deferral hunter education