

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 192

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 192, if enacted, 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.

The bill also would increase the fee for a nonresident big game deer permit by \$10. The revenue generated by the fee increase would be credited to the Feed the Hungry Fund.

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, equipment type, or hunt units; and

*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>

- 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.

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.