

SESSION OF 2007

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 266**

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

Sub. for SB 266, if enacted, would make two changes in a statute that concerns hunting of big game. The first change would expand the range of nonresident deer firearm permits that may be issued for a deer season in a management unit from not less than a 10 percent to not more than 50 percent of the total number of permits authorized for the season. The second change would extend the sunset of the subsection of the statute dealing with the issuance of transferrable nonresident deer permits to landowners and tenants from 2007 to June 30, 2009.

Background

Pursuant to a legislative directive, a task force created by the Department of Wildlife and Parks developed a plan for the management of big game and wild turkey hunting that was presented by agency representatives to committees of the Legislature early in the 2007 Session. A representative of the agency requested the introduction of SB 266, which if enacted, would have amended two statutes, one the statute amended in the substitute bill and another that concerns the taking of wild turkeys. As introduced, the bill, in general, would have left implementation of the proposed plan relating to big game and wild turkeys through rules and regulations adopted by the Commission on Parks and Wildlife. Proponents appearing in support of the bill included a representative of the Kansas Farm

*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>

Bureau and the chairperson of the task force that considered big game and wild turkey issues. The representative of the Farm Bureau expressed support for the plan developed by the task force, noting the membership had some concerns as to whether the Commission, in developing implementing regulations, would make changes in the plan. Two letters in opposition to the bill were submitted to the Senate Committee by representatives of the Kansas Outfitters Association and by landowners. Both expressed concern with removing specific statutory provisions with the authority to implement policy through rules and regulations developed pursuant to the guidelines set out in SB 266.

The substitute bill was offered by a member of the Senate Committee who indicated a concern over not having big game policy in the statutes and who indicated the substitute bill would give Wildlife and Parks an opportunity to come back to the Legislature with a bill that would reflect the task force recommendations in the form of statutes.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to clarify the language which would expand the range of the number of nonresident deer firearm permits that could be issued in a management unit.

The fiscal note on the original bill indicates the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks believes if demand for nonresident deer permits can be met, the agency would no longer have to send approximately 5,000 refunds to unsuccessful permit applicants and would realize a small savings in agency expenses. Any significant impact is not accounted for in the *FY 2008 Governor's Budget Report*.