



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
KANSAS

To: House Committee on Federal and State Affairs, Rep. Tom Kessler, Chair

From: Marshal Loftus, Kansas Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Date: February 17, 2025

Re: HB2028- Requiring the Kansas department of wildlife and parks to offer discounted resident senior combination hunting and fishing passes to residents of this state who are 65 years of age or older and removing the expiration date for Kansas kids lifetime combination hunting and fishing licenses.

Chairman Kessler and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony to HB2028. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) is known as the sportsmen's voice for our public lands, waters and wildlife. The Kansas Chapter of BHA seeks to ensure our outdoor heritage of hunting and fishing in a natural setting through education and hard work. We perform numerous service projects every year to improve our publicly owned lands, and to increase opportunities to hunting and fishing access in any way we can.

Senior lifetime hunting licenses provide opportunity and convenience to our older hunters and do make significant contributions to funding of wildlife conservation in Kansas. We support this opportunity for outdoors men and women in their last years of hunting. HB2028 also provides ongoing access to lifetime licenses purchases for future hunters while still children. These licenses may provide encouragement for these individuals to participate in hunting as youth or adults. While we support the availability of these lifetime licenses, it is crucial that these licenses meet and continue to meet federal requirements for Pittman-Robertson funding.

To maximize access to federal dollars, the cost of these licenses must meet federal requirements. We would support an amendment matching the cost of the licenses with the federal requirements into perpetuity so that no federal funding is lost when requirements change, and the statute cost no longer meets them. With this amendment we would be very supportive of HB 2028. We encourage the committee to reference HB 2147. This bill was introduced in 2025 and already has the proper amendments needed to ensure that this legislation benefits Kansas now and into the future.

Marshal Loftus, Chair of Kansas Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Marshal.loftus@gmail.com



WWW.BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG/KANSAS_BHA
KANSAS@BACKCOUNTRYHUNTERS.ORG