

**House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Proponent Testimony of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
House Bill 2507**

February 4, 2026

Chairman Kessler and Members of the Committee,

At its January 2026 meeting, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission voted to request the introduction of House Bill 2507.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is a fee-funded agency, and the Legislature has directed the issue of Migratory Waterfowl Habitat Stamps for the “purpose of protecting and propagating migratory waterfowl, including the acquisition, by purchase or lease, of migratory waterfowl habitats in this state, and for the purpose of development, restoration, maintenance or preservation of waterfowl habitats.” K.S.A. 32-993.

The Department—through initiatives and programs with partner organizations—has successfully carried out the Legislature’s mandate, turning Kansas into a destination waterfowl hunting state. Cheyenne Bottoms, Neosho Wildlife Area, and Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area are just a few of the most popular properties in the Central Flyway migration system.

Yet success inevitably brings new challenges. Over the past several years, the top issue confronting the Department has been waterfowl hunting pressure on Kansas public lands, particularly pressure from nonresident waterfowl hunters who come to Kansas to take advantage of our excellent waterfowl habitat.

The Department continues to grapple with the issue of waterfowl hunting pressure on its public lands, and this bill is a step in the right direction. Most importantly, it delineates between residents and nonresidents when it comes to the amount the Secretary may charge for a stamp. This approach allows the Department to more clearly identify residents and nonresident waterfowl hunters in data collection and reporting. The distinction between residents and nonresidents also mirrors the approach taken by the Legislature when authorizing other fees of the Department, such as the resident and nonresident deer and turkey permits.

The bill also raises the stamp's maximum fee, which was last adjusted in 2001—twenty-five years ago. This fee increase will help address the ongoing issue of waterfowl pressure on Kansas public land. Increasing revenue from the sale of this stamp will aid in agency staffing capacity, allowing the Department to increase manpower to manage the ever-growing number of waterfowl hunters coming to Kansas. The increase in fees will also allow the Department to leverage Pittman-Robertson federal grant funds to further enhance migratory waterfowl habitat projects and programs across Kansas, providing additional hunting opportunities to Kansas residents. It is important to note that although the maximum fee will increase, the amount charged to hunters is set in the Department's regulations.

Finally, the bill would also eliminate the requirement that all Migratory Waterfowl Habitat Stamps be validated with a signature across the face of the stamp. In the modern era of electronic stamps, this requirement is no longer necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on House Bill 2507. I am happy to provide additional information at the appropriate time.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Kennedy
Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks