

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Testimony of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Senate Bill 364

February 3, 2026

Chairman Peck and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB 2502. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (Department) is neutral on this bill. However, the Department offers the following comments and recommendations regarding the current language.

On October 18, 2024, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks announced it had stopped selling a 10-year combination of hunting and fishing licenses for Kansas residents aged 65 to 74. The decision follows the discovery that the statute authorizing the Department to sell the licenses had expired. The licenses were commonly called a Senior Lifetime Pass.

Since the statute expired, the Department has tried to "fill the gap" by offering five-year fishing, hunting, and combination hunting and fishing licenses through its current statutory authority. These new licenses took effect on September 12, 2025, and are located in the Department's fee regulation (K.A.R. 115-2-1).

On January 8, 2026, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Commission unanimously approved the introduction of a bill on behalf of the Commission, re-introducing the discounted combination hunting and fishing licenses. The proposed language would differ from HB 2502 in the following manner:

- The proposed language adds a provision to the statute automatically converting the 5-year licenses sold since last September into resident senior combination hunting and fishing licenses. Assuming the bill becomes law, the Department intends to revoke the three different 5-year senior licenses.
- The proposed language does not include language changing the ages or cost of kids licenses.

In 2025, the Department sold 165 Kansas Kids Lifetime Combo licenses (6-7 years). The current \$500 price point already reflects an approximate 76% discount from the full cost of a license. As a fee funded agency, any decrease in fee revenue results in a corresponding reduction in the agency's operating budget.

Additionally, If the federal guidelines were to change, decreasing the amount to \$400 may be problematic and this statute would need to be amended to meet the new federal threshold.

The Department respectfully asks the Committee to consider these changes that are supported by the bipartisan Wildlife and Parks Commission and the Department. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and stand ready to assist the Committee as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "K".

Christopher Kennedy, Secretary