

Hunting and Fishing; HB 2028

HB 2028 amends law concerning the resident senior combination hunting and fishing pass and the Kansas kids combination lifetime hunting and fishing license (license). The bill also prohibits non-residents from hunting migratory waterfowl during certain times and in certain places, requires the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) to present certain data in a report to the Legislature, and changes the fees for migratory waterfowl habitat stamps.

Combination Hunting and Fishing Passes and Licenses

Resident Senior Combination Hunting and Fishing Pass

The bill revives law authorizing the KDWP to offer a resident senior combination hunting and fishing pass and remove the sunset date. These provisions allowed any Kansan age 65 or older to purchase a discounted lifetime hunting and fishing permit. The provisions expired on June 30, 2020, and the bill states the provisions would be effective as of January 1, 2025.

Kansas Kids Combination Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License

The bill allows licenses to be issued by the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to children 5 years or younger for \$300, and to children from ages 6 to 15 years for \$400.

The bill also removes the sunset for the license provisions that are currently set to expire on July 1, 2032.

Migratory Waterfowl Hunting and Habitat Stamps

Non-resident Hunting Prohibition

The bill prohibits non-residents from hunting migratory waterfowl during the hunting season except on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays.

The bill defines “non-resident” as any person who has not been a *bona fide* resident of Kansas for the immediately preceding 60 days. “Non-resident” does not include a non-resident lifetime license holder or a non-resident entitled to resident licenses, permits, stamps, and other issues as authorized in law.

This prohibition applies to:

- “Department lands and waters” which means lands, water, and facilities that are under the jurisdiction and control of the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks through ownership, lease, license, cooperative agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other arrangement, including, but not limited to, state parks, state lakes, recreational grounds, wildlife areas, sanctuaries, fish hatcheries, natural areas, and historic sites; and

- Federal lands and waters owned by the United States and administered by:
 - The Secretary of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at the Bill Hill, Clinton, Council Grove, El Dorado, Elk City, Fall River, Hillsdale, John Redmond, Kanopolis, Marion, Melvern, Milford, Perry, Pomona, Toronto, Tuttle Creek, and Wilson reservoirs and Missouri River fish and wildlife mitigation lands, including, but not limited to, Benedictine Bottoms, Burr Oak, Dalbey, Elwood, and Oak Mills;
 - The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, at Cedar Bluff, Cheney, Glen Elder, Lovewell, Norton, and Webster reservoirs; and
- The U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, Quivira National Refuge, Marais Des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, and Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge.

The non-resident hunting prohibition does not apply to:

- Property enrolled and designated as walk-in hunting access areas or interactive walk-in hunting access areas;
- Navigable rivers in Kansas; or
- The conservation order for light geese season, as provided in federal law.

The bill requires the KDWP to compile certain data into a report to provide to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on January 31, 2026, and January 31, 2027.

The provisions of the bill that apply to non-resident hunting prohibitions will sunset on July 1, 2028.

Fees for Migratory Waterfowl Habitat Stamps

The bill changes the fees for a migratory waterfowl habitat stamp (stamp). The current fee for the stamp is a maximum of \$8 for any hunter. The bill creates separate fees for resident and non-resident hunters:

- The resident fee is a maximum of \$20; and
- The non-resident is a maximum of \$100.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.