

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 473

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Brief*

SB 473 would allow Audubon of Kansas to convey real estate in Wabaunsee County and require the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) to review and approve the deeds and conveyances before the conveyance occurs. The bill would also remove language that prohibits Audubon of Kansas from conveying any real estate.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at the request of Senator Titus.

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a board member of the Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards, a representative of Audubon of Kansas, and the Executive Director of KSHS. The proponents stated the bill would allow Audubon of Kansas to transfer the original 30 acres of Mount Mitchell Heritage Park (Park) to the Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards, who are the caretakers of the Park. The original 30 acres were owned by Free-Stater pioneer

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

Captain William Mitchell. His log cabin, which he operated with his father and sister as an Underground Railroad station, still stands.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a Mount Mitchell Prairie Guards board member who is a grandchild of William Izott Mitchell who donated 30 acres of his father's original Wabaunsee County farm to the KSHS in 1953.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee recommended the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, KSHS indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Conveyance of land; property; Wabaunsee County; Audubon of Kansas; Kansas State Historical Society