

SENATE BILL 314
HOUSE AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Committee members, I am Jim Snyder, Speaker ProTem of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature. Senate Bill 314 passed the Senate 23-17. The original bill was unacceptable and the amendments which were attached, only made the bill worse, and none of which are acceptable as well.

The bill now provides for exemption of Kansans 75 and older...however, this proviso expires in 2020 (only for 7 years), so unless a Kansan is 69 years or older RIGHT NOW, it won't do them any good and then for only a short time. It also says seniors can get a license for half price, but that's only a difference of \$10...they still have to go get a license, etc. which they've been doing ever since they were 16 years old.

NO ADDITIONAL SERVICES ARE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT, AND A LOOK AT THE LICENSING COSTS, SHOWS A SPECIAL LICENSE NEEDED ALSO FOR NEARLY EVERY SPECIE OF GAME ANIMAL OR BIRD IN THE STATE.

THERE ARE 376,000 KANSANS OF AGE 65 AND OLDER. Presently more than 250,000 licenses are issued to Kansans by the Wildlife Dept. (don't know how many are 65 or older, but they expect the change in the law could effect 50,000 Kansas Seniors).

Attached are 4 "Letters to the Editor" opposing this bill and by people I don't know. Also, is a letter from Thomas Feikert of Blue Mound. I'm not a hunter nor a fisher. But many Seniors have supported the Wildlife Dept all these years and now in their golden years are expected to continue to do so.

Why? If the Department needs extra money, the present law provides them the opportunity to raise current license fees by \$4.50 each. This would generate \$1,000,000 without even bothering the Legislature and definitely without bothering present Kansas seniors of age 65 or older.

Also, attached is page one of the public employee salaries for this Department. It is the first of 39 pages and reflects 969 employees in the Department. I didn't include any more pages, but you have to get near the bottom of page 4 before the Salaries are less than \$50,000 per annum each. Some of the 969 employees may no longer be with the department because of 'early retirement', different job, down grading, etc. but still this is a heavy employment area.

This proposed legislation is bad legislation. It effects people on a rigid income at a time when the nation's economy is really bad. Please don't take it out on the Seniors in your District.

Thank you.

Jim Snyder, Speaker ProTem, Kansas SilverHaired Legislature

House Ag. & Natural Resources
March 20, 2012
Attachment 2

KW&P 2012 Legislative Agenda
Kansas Wildlife & Parks magazine Jan/Feb 2012
by Robin Jensen Vol 69 NO#1

I am a 70 year old retiree who started fishing at 4 years old & hunting at age 10. I have purchased licenses, permits, duck & WTP stamps etc all my life. I worked part time as a Kansas citizen looking forward to the day when time would afford me more time in the Kansas outdoors. Now on a fixed income the 2012 Legislative Agenda proposes to remove the 65 year & older exemption because of a decline in Kansas Hunting & Fishing License sales.

Are they penalizing seniors for their longevity & dedication to the KW&P? The decline is not the 65+ over Kansas residents fault. Many seniors will hang it up. The decline will be felt by merchants selling outdoor equipment. Please try other ways to fund your programs. Do not punish the 65+ older residents who are on a fixed income.

Thank You
Thomas R. Feikert



Thomas R. Feikert
2298 County Rd. 1077
Blue Mound, KS 66010

913-756-2573



LETTERS

Don't cheat seniors

On Thursday, legislators heard presentations on a bill that would end the exemption to hunting and fishing licensing fees for hunters and anglers 65 and older.

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism officials contend removing the exemption would be more equitable for all hunters and anglers. That is wrong. Seniors have paid their fair share in fees for more than 40 years, with the understanding that by doing so their right to continue to hunt and fish without paying license fees would be guaranteed when they were on fixed incomes.

KDWPT officials also say the seniors' fees will help continue the programs and services hunters and anglers enjoy, as well as help pass along the outdoor tradition to future generations. Seniors already support — financially and through volunteer hours — such programs as Quail Unlimited, Pheasants Unlimited, hunter safety schools, watershed programs, etc. The list goes on and on.

Officials also say that annual fishing and hunting licenses cost less than many other recreational activities. That's a moot point. Seniors have paid for, and will continue to pay for, these other recreational activities. If this bill is passed, seniors will also have to pay for their licenses, something they were promised they wouldn't have to do after they reached age 65.

Is the KDWPT proposal a fair and equitable bill? Absolutely not.

Tell it like it is. Seniors are being asked to pay for something they believed they had already paid for.

We don't mind contributing to, paying for or supporting programs, but don't tell us that removing the exemption will be fair and equitable.

If this bill is passed, seniors will be cheated and will lose a long-anticipated benefit at a time when they are on fixed incomes.

People who agree should contact their legislators and request they vote no on this bill.

STEPHEN L. WORKMAN,
Topeka

Support Fair Tax

The Kansas Economic Freedom Act of 2014, HB 2763, has been introduced in Legislature as a "Fair Tax" model. It is personally gratifying to see this day come for all Kansans.

The law would eliminate five statewide taxes, including the corporate income tax, personal income tax and capital gains tax. The law also would reduce the state sales tax to 5.7 percent from 6.3 percent.

It would raise more revenue because it would be collected fairly as a "choice" on all personal retail goods and services consumed in Kansas. A monthly pre-bate available to every head of household in Kansas to forgive the tax on all retail purchases up to the federal poverty-level of consumption also is a part of HB 2763.

The bill is designed to increase the annual gross domestic product of Kansas to at least 6 percent, but it must be passed without any amendments. When Kansans contact their state representative to tell them to vote yes on HB 2763, it is also their opportunity to ensure it will indeed be passed as a "clean" bill.

Kansans can join the fight for passage now and find updates concerning this bipartisan movement to make Kansas the best jobs producer in the nation at www.fairtaxkc.org.

JEFFREY G. LOCKE,
Arma

Social work

School Social Work Week is March 4 through March 10. School social workers are the liaisons for our families to help their students succeed. They address the social and psychological issues that can block academic progress through counseling, crisis intervention, prevention programs and utilizing the community's resources.

School social workers help young people overcome the difficulties in their lives and give them a better chance at succeeding in school. They assist their fellow school personnel address environmental and family issues that affect our students to help keep students learning in the classroom. School social workers are truly the vital link between home, school and

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How to submit letters to the editor

Signed letters with the writer's full name, address a will be considered for publication. Because of the v can be published. Preference will be given to concis interest in Topeka and Kansas. All letters are subje

House Ag. & Natural Resources
March 20, 2012
Attachment 2-2

License fees

I really try to stay out of politics and keep my thoughts to myself. However, I have some concerns in regards to the Legislature.

Why are our legislators wasting time with committee hearings and House and Senate bills on such issues as a state dog? Why are they wasting time with legislation that allows inmates — that's right, criminals — the ability to fish without a license yet would require senior citizens who have paid for their licenses for many years to continue to pay.

I have no problem buying a license every year. However, I'm sure there are those who may not be able to afford this luxury. How about changing more to those who come from out of state to hunt and fish? Let them make up the difference in lost revenue. I'm surprised legislators didn't decide to give inmates a free hunting license and guns. I'm for giving people a second chance, but only after they serve their time.

If legislators want to change the laws about hunting and fishing licenses fees, they should first think about our wounded warriors and those with other disabilities. They are the ones who deserve a free license. It's a wonder legislators don't exempt themselves from having to purchase licenses.

K.C. BLODGETT,
Mayetta

Respect seniors

One of Gov. Sam Brownback's appointees, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism director Robin Jennison, is pushing a bill that repeals a law that exempts fishers 65 and older from paying for a fishing license. This is just another kick in the face to senior citizens who have paid yearly to fish in Kansas.

These people have supported fish and game programs for 48 years through license fees and the additional fees charged by businesses that issue licenses, not to mention fishing and boating permits. Over 48 years, that amounts to thousands of dollars for each senior citizen.

Theses seniors still have to pay for trout permits and fees at some lakes in the state. It baffles me to think Kansas is so hard pressed for revenue that it has to stoop this low to get money while the governor passes out \$16 million to an aviation business in Wichita.

If it wasn't for senior citizens, the disabled and the less fortunate, the sstate might have to tap the wealthy for additional revenue.

JERRY REECE,
Berryton

Penalizing seniors

In response to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's proposal to eliminate the senior citizen exemption for purchasing hunting and fishing licenses, I think the department should research other options, such as raising out-of-state licence fees and charging a fee to be an outfitter.

Are leased lands taxed for recreational use?

KDWPT can look for ways to raise funds without penalizing those who have paid their dues.

GARY L. WARDERS,
Waterville

Database:Public Employees
Salaries/CJonline.com

Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Secretary Of Wildlife & Parks	Robin L	Jennison	Shawnee	\$111,490	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Asst Secretary of KDWP	Richard E	Koerth	Shawnee	\$86,918	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Program Director	Linda K	Craghead	Shawnee	\$84,000	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Asst Secretary of KDWP	Keith E	Sexson Jr	Pratt	\$84,000	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Head Of Division Of State Agcy	Rebecca J	Blake	Shawnee	\$82,961	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Staff <u>Attorney</u>	Christopher J	Tymeson	Shawnee	\$73,435	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Public Service Executive III	Joseph D	Kramer	Pratt	\$73,320	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Spec Asst To The Sec Of W & P	Mark A	Stock	Shawnee	\$68,182	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Professional Civil Eng I	Chad R.	Grisier	Pratt	\$63,357	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Public Service Executive II	John M	Spurgeon	Shawnee	\$63,357	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Professional Civil Eng II	Jacob C.	Baldwin	Shawnee	\$61,838	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Engineering Project Designer	Michael N	Calwell	Shawnee	\$61,838	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Public Service Executive III	Ronald L	Kaufman	Shawnee	\$61,838	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Public Service Executive II	Michael W	Mitchener	Pratt	\$61,838	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Public Service Executive II	Douglas D	Nygren	Pratt	\$61,838	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Economic Development Rep IV	Richard S	Smalley	Shawnee	\$61,825	 Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and	Public Service Executive III	Linda S	Austin-Lanierman	Pratt	\$60,382	 Details

Parks						
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Public Service Executive II	Terry E	Denker	Shawnee	\$60,382	Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Public Service Executive III	Kevin W	Jones	Pratt	\$60,382	Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Public Service Executive III	Cynthia L	Livingston	Pratt	\$60,382	Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Environmental Scientist III	Roger L	Wolfe	Shawnee	\$60,382	Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	IS Manager I	Jason T	Dickson	Pratt	\$58,885	Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Environmental Scientist II	Kenneth L	Brunson	Pratt	\$57,429	Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Public Service Executive II	Eric R	Johnson	Pratt	\$57,429	Details
Ks Dept of Wildlife and Parks	Natural Resource Officer IV	Robin A	Ladner	Shawnee	\$57,429	Details

RECORDS 1-25 of 969