

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ralph Ostmeyer at 10:30 am on Wednesday, March 09, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Jacob LaTurner – Excused

Committee staff present:
Joanna Dolan, Legislative Research Department
Connie Burns, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Matt Sterling, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Representative Adam Lusker, Sr.
Christopher J. Tymeson, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Travis Couture-Lovelady, National Rifle Association of America
Mike Murray, Kansas State Rifle Association

Others in attendance:
[See Attached List](#)

HCR 5008 - Right of public to hunt, fish and trap

Chairman Ostmeyer opened the hearing on **HCR 5008**.

Staff provided an overview of the bill.

Representative Adam Lusker, Sr. appeared before the committee as a proponent on the bill. [\(Attachment 1\)](#) The bill will galvanize that Kansas is committed to sportsmen and takes great pride in hunting, fishing and trapping in the state.

Christopher J. Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism spoke in favor of the bill. [\(Attachment 2\)](#) Currently approximately 20 states have constitutional provisions afforded to hunting, fishing and trapping, most of which have passed since the year 2000. There have been trapping and hunting bans of varying degrees and for certain species put forth in many states that significantly hinder the ability of the Department and the public to manage wildlife. A constitutional right to hunt, fish and trap may have been very helpful in defending against many of these unscientific proposals. If these time honored traditions and ways of life are to be preserved and funded in perpetuity, then this constitutional amendment should be put forth to the voters this year.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Federal and State Affairs at 10:30 am on Wednesday, March 09, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Travis Couture-Lovelady, State Liaison, National Rifle Association of America, appeared as a proponent on the bill. ([Attachment 3](#)) The bill would ensure that future wildlife conservation and management decisions are based on sound science in order to preserve Kansas hunting heritage for generations to come.

Mike Murray and Karin Brownlee on behalf of the Kansas State Rifle Association, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 4](#)) Passage of an amendment such as is proposed in the bill is not unprecedented. Vermont was the first to do so in 1777, and 18 other states have followed suit including Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Florida and New Hampshire have done so by statute; and California's constitutional amendment protects the right to fish. There are numerous national groups which actively oppose hunting, fishing and trapping. They pose a very real threat to the preservation of Kansas outdoor heritage for future generations.

Written testimony was provided in support of the bill by:

Trevor Santos, Manager Government Relations/State Affairs, National Shooting Sports Foundation ([Attachment 5](#))

Chris Horton, Midwestern States Director, Congressional Sportsmens Foundation ([Attachment 6](#))

Marc Glades, South Region Field Manager, Pheasants Forever Inc. and Quail Forever ([Attachment 7](#))

Vance Ralstin, Kansas-National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) State Chapter President ([Attachment 8](#))

Cost associated with publishing requirements for both state and county was provided. ([Attachment 9](#))

Chairman Ostmeyer closed the hearing on **HCR 5008**.

Discussion and Final Action

SB 421 - Carrying a concealed handgun in a public building; restricted access entrance

Staff provided an amendment to the bill. ([Attachment 10](#))

Senator Olson moved the amendment. Longbine seconded the motion. The motion carried.

*Senator Olson moved to pass **SB 421** out favorably as amended. Senator Wilborn seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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HCR 5008 - Right of public to hunt, fish and trap

*Senator Olson moved to pass **HCR 5008** out favorably. Senator Holmes seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

The next meeting is scheduled March 10, 2015. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.