

HOUSE BILL No. 2234

By Committee on Appropriations

1-25

9 AN ACT concerning the department of wildlife and parks; regarding
10 public hunting land.

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12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. The provisions of sections 1 through 3, and amendments
14 thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the Kansas hunting heritage
15 protection act.

16 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

17 (a) “Department” means the department of wildlife and parks;

18 (b) “department-managed lands” means those lands that:

19 (1) The department owns; and

20 (2) over which the department holds management authority; and

21 (c) “hunting” means the lawful pursuit, trapping, shooting, capture,
22 collection or killing of wildlife or the attempt to pursue, trap, shoot, cap-
23 ture, collect or kill wildlife.

24 Sec. 3. (a) Subject to valid existing rights, department-managed lands
25 shall be open to access and use for recreational hunting except as limited
26 by the department for reasons of public safety, fish or wildlife manage-
27 ment, or homeland security or as otherwise limited by law.

28 (b) The department shall exercise its authority consistent with sub-
29 section (a) of this section in a manner to support, promote and enhance
30 recreational hunting opportunities to the extent authorized by law.

31 (c) The department is not required to give preference to hunting over
32 other uses of department-managed lands or over land or water manage-
33 ment priorities established by state law.

34 (d) To the greatest practicable extent, department land management
35 decisions and actions may not result in any net loss of land acreage avail-
36 able for hunting opportunities on department-managed lands that exist
37 on the effective date of this act.

38 (e) This act does not apply to department-owned lands under con-
39 tract to private persons or entities.

40 (f) On or before January 1 of each year, the department shall submit
41 to the legislature a written report describing:

42 (1) The acreage administered by the department that has been closed
43 during the previous year to recreational hunting and the reasons for each

1 closure; and

2 (2) the acreage administered by the department that was opened to
3 recreational hunting to compensate for the acreage that was closed during
4 the previous year.

5 (g) This act does not compel the opening to recreational hunting of
6 national parks or national monuments administered by the national park
7 service.

8 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
9 publication in the statute book.