

Approved _____

7/23/88
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS & BENEFITS

The meeting was called to order by REPRESENTATIVE VERNON L. WILLIAMS at _____
Chairperson

9:00 AM a.m./p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1988, 19__ in room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Laird and Rep. Ott, who were excused

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Richard Ryan, Gordon Self, Betty Lou Chidester

Conferees appearing before the committee: Gerry Hazlett, Kansas Wildlife Federation
Edward A. Martinko, Kansas Nongame Wildlife
Advisory Council
Dean W. Wilson, Topeka Audubon Society
Robert L. Meinen, Secretary, Kansas Department
Wildlife and Parks

All of the above were proponents for HB 2631

Rep. Clarence Love also appeared in support of HB 2703

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Rep. Vernon L. Williams.
The Chairman asked Rep. Love to make his statement concerning HB 2703.
Rep. Love's introductory remark was to the effect that HB 2703 and HB 2757
were not identical bills, and while HB 2757 conflicts with HB 2703, they
both seek to amend the Kansas Statutes on KPERS retirement. His testimony
is attached to and made a part of these minutes. (See Attachment #1).

The Chairman then welcomed Gerry Hazlett, Kansas Wild Life Federation to
give his testimony on HB 2631. His testimony is attached to and made a part
of these minutes. (See Attachment #2).

The Chairman asked if this was "boilerplate language" for investment of
funds. Richard Ryan replied that the money stayed in the General Fund and
that the board would not invest the money separately, but "yes" the
procedures and types of investment were boilerplate.

The Chairman then welcomed Edward A. Martinko, Chairman, Kansas Nongame
Wildlife Advisory Council whose testimony is attached to and made a part
of these minutes. (See Attachment #3).

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.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS & BENEFITS,
room 527-S, Statehouse, at 9:00 AM a.m./p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1988, 19

in response to a question from Rep. Wisdom as to the dollar amount, Mr. Martinko stated there has been some variation through the years of between \$130,000 and \$135,000 in the fund. Last year there was in excess of \$200,000. When asked by Rep. Sand if this is all contributions and no tax money, he stated that all are voluntary, private contributions.

The Chairman then welcomed Dean Wilson, Topeka Audubon Society, who gave his testimony in favor of HB 2631. His testimony is attached to and made a part of these minutes. (See attachment #4).

The Chairman then welcomed Robert L. Meinen, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, who prefaced his testimony with the explanation that the present Dept. of Wildlife and Parks is a blend of the old Park Resources and the old Fish & Game Departments. His testimony is attached to and made a part of these minutes. (See Attachment #5).

This concluded the hearing on HB 2631.

The Chairman opened the discussion on HB 2757 and Rep. Wisdom stated that he introduced the bill as a request from a constituent to change the length of time of marriage for a spouse to receive survivor spouse benefits. That relief seemed to be justified so that not only this person, but others in like circumstances would benefit. He felt there would be little or no fiscal note.

The Chairman asked Marshall Crowther to comment. He gave the history of spouse benefits and options under KPERS and noted present law resulted from several changes deemed worthy policy decisions by the legislature. He confirmed there would be no fiscal note for either bill and both raised policy questions for the legislature.

The Chairman requested action on HB 2631. Rep. Wisdom moved that HB 2631 be passed. Rep. Justice seconded.

Rep. Dyck asked Staff if there is a precedent on these kinds of funds - it being his understanding this fund is kind of an endowment fund - we're not spending - see page #3

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS & BENEFITS,

room 527-S Statehouse, at 9:00 AM a.m./p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1988, 1988

the principal - it's simply there for whatever purpose. Richard Ryan responded that there are several like that - SB 50, the bill passed last year, was a gift fund that is now handled by the Dept. of Wildlife. There have been several others - Dept. of Health & Environment, the interest is returned to the Dept.; there are others that are established by either law or federal requirements of one kind or another; there are student housing at the universities that are a kind of revolving fund whereby the payments by the students are made and the interest on that goes to specific funds within the University. The State does not charge a handling fee and the interest is returned to the fund.

The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM.

Rep. VanDyke

Feb 10

Please PRINT Name, Address, the organization you represent, and the Number of the Bill in which you are interested. Thank you.

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION	BILL NO.
Edward Martinko	2291 IRVING Hill Dr. LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66045	KS. Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council	HB 2631
Dean W. Wilson	3509 SE Highland Ave Topeka, KS 66605	Topeka Audubon Society	HB 2631
Paci West	RESEARCH DEPT.	5th Floor Capital	
Bob Meinen	Topeka	Kansas Dept of Wildlife + Parks	2631
Bill Hanzlick	"	"	
Charles Nilon	Pratt	"	HB 2631
Janelle Hayslet	Topeka		HB 2631
Jerry Hylea	Topeka	KS Wildlife Fed.	HB 2631
Mandi Ann	Meade, KS 67864	Class-11p Kansas Student	
Jim Eckhoff	Meade, KS 67864	Class-11p Kansas Student	
Tricia Blahm	Meade, KS 67864	Class-11p Kansas Student	
Marshall Comber	Lawrence	KCFRS	
Judy Hedden	Topeka	"	

CLARENCE C. LOVE
 REPRESENTATIVE, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT
 WYANDOTTE COUNTY
 2853 PARKVIEW
 KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66104
 (913) 371-5625



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 MEMBER: GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
 INTERSTATE COOPERATION
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Helen Hope, a lady in Kansas City, requested this bill to amend the Kansas Statutes on K.P.E.R.'s retirement. She wishes to be the recipient of her late husband Jesse Hope's retirement benefits.

Jessie Hope was married to Helen for thirty seven years and bore him two sons. He was a District Fire Chief in Kansas City, Kansas. Shortly after his retirement he and Helen were divorced and he remarried. He died three years after his second marriage.

Under present law neither one of his spouses can be the recipient of his retirement benefits. My bill, HB 2703, creates a subsection that states: "If no other person qualifies for benefits, the term "member's spouse", shall include any person married to the member at the time of retirement of such member and for a total of at least 35 years even though such member and such person are not married to each other at the time of the member's death".

Clarence C. Love
 Representative
 35th District

CCL:lsf

Summary of House Bill No. 2703

House Bill No. 2703 amends a provision in the Kansas police and firemen's retirement system relating to the payment of retirement benefits upon the death of a retirant. Present law provides that in the case of the death of a retirant who had not elected to retire under one of the retirement benefit options under K.S.A. 74-4964, a retirement benefit shall be paid to the retirant's spouse under certain conditions. The conditions under which the retirant's spouse is entitled to receive the benefits are that (1) the spouse must have been married to the member for at least one year at the time of the retirant's death, or (2) the spouse had been married to the retirant for at least five years after the date of the retirement of the retirant.

The bill would provide that if no person would qualify as the retirant's spouse under the present definition at the time of death of the retirant, the person married to the retirant at the time of the member's retirement and had been married to the member for at least 35 years would be entitled to receive the benefits.

KANSAS WILDLIFE FEDERATION
PO Box 5715 Topeka, KS. 66605
(913) 266-6185

Testimony HB 2631
House Committee on Pensions, Investments & Benefits
February 10, 1988

The Kansas Wildlife Federation is a not-for-profit wildlife and natural resources conservation and education organization. Our 8000 volunteer members, and the 10,000 Kansas members of our national affiliate, The National Wildlife Federation, are dedicated to the proper use, management and funding of our vital soil, water, air, plant and animal resources.

The Non-Game-Wildlife Improvement Fund is a voluntary income tax check-off program for providing additional sources of revenue for our wildlife resources. Many of the members of KWF, in addition to purchasing hunting fishing and trapping licenses, and boating and camping permits, also voluntarily contribute to this program.

Because the members of KWF voluntarily participate in this program, we support the complete return of these funds, including interest received by the State, to KDWP for the management of non-game programs.

KANSAS NONGAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM TO: House Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits

FROM: Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council

SUBJECT: HB 2631 - Interest Credit for Nongame Wildlife
Improvement Fund

DATE: 10 February 1988

The Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council wishes to go on record in support of HB 2631.

The Council is a citizen's advisory group to the Department of Wildlife and Parks on its nongame wildlife improvement program funded by the "Chickadee Checkoff" on the state income tax form. It is made up of representatives appointed by nine broad-based organizations: (1) the Kansas Academy of Science, (2) the Kansas Advisory Council for Environmental Education, (3) the Kansas Audubon Council, (4) the Kansas Biological Survey, (5) the Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, (6) the Kansas Farm Bureau, (7) the Kansas Ornithological Society, (8) the Kansas Wildflower Society, and (9) the Kansas Wildlife Federation. Although the Council's recommendations are made in the interest of nongame wildlife in Kansas, these recommendations do not necessarily reflect the positions of the individual organizations represented on the Council.

The Council fully endorses the provisions of HB 2631 as a means to address additional nongame concerns without a great burden on the state general fund. The Legislature established the nongame program as a means for people interested in wildlife to make voluntary contributions. Most contributors assume that interest is going back into the nongame fund and are surprised to find that it is not. HB 2631 provides an important opportunity to further enhance the nongame program by crediting interest income directly to the nongame wildlife improvement fund.

We urge your support of HB 2631

Respectfully submitted by,



Edward A. Martanko
Chairman
2291 Irving Hill Drive
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
Telephone: 913/864-7725

Do something WILD!

Attachment #3

2/10/88

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS, AND BENEFITS

ON HOUSE BILL 2631

BY

DEAN WILSON
FEBRUARY 10, 1988

I am here to speak to you for the Topeka Audubon Society, representing 500 members. We are in favor of HB 2631.

This bill is similar to SB 50 which allows the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks to retain the interest monies earned on gifts to the state agency. This bill passed the 1987 session. The intent of HB 2631 is the same - to encourage donations of voluntary amounts to the Nongame Wildlife Improvement Fund or Chickadee Checkoff as many know it.

We urge the committee to support this bill and its reason - to promote donations to the Chickadee Checkoff and interest monies earned to be used for the promotion of nongame wildlife in Kansas.

Dean W. Wilson
3509 SE Highland Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66605
913-266-6591
Topeka Audubon Society

ATTACHMENT # 4

2/10/88

Testimony Provided to House Committee

February 10, 1988

Provided by: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Submitted by: Robert L. Meinen, Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

The nongame fund is the only source of funding for the Department of Wildlife and Parks' Nongame Wildlife Improvement Program. The nongame fund receives no income from the general fund. All income comes from donations made by taxpayers through the Chickadee Checkoff line on the Kansas Individual Income Tax Form.

H. B. 2631 would provide for the investment of idle nongame funds by the Pooled Money Investment Board, with interest, estimated at \$8,000 annually, accruing to the Nongame Wildlife Fund. The \$8,000 interest is based on an average monthly balance of \$134,267 at a 6 percent interest rate. This was the 1987 calendar year balance.

Summary information of the Nongame (Chickadee Checkoff) program have been provided Committee members and examples of various programs supported by the Nongame Wildlife Fund are listed.

The Department of Wildlife and Parks supports HB 2631, and recommends passage of this legislation.

SUMMARY INFORMATION ON CHICKADEE CHECKOFF

Checkoff History

1. The nongame fund is the only source of funding for the Department of Wildlife and Parks' Nongame Wildlife Improvement Program.
2. The nongame fund receives no income from the general fund. All income comes from donations made by taxpayers through the Chickadee Checkoff line on the Kansas Individual Income Tax Form.
3. Although the nongame program started in 1975, a source of funds was not available until 1981, the first year of the Checkoff.
4. Checkoff income can be used only on programs that benefit nongame wildlife species - species that are not covered under hunting, fishing, or trapping regulations.
5. Income from the checkoff is managed through the nongame program, a part of the Wildlife Division. The Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council, whose members represent nine conservation organizations, acts as an unofficial advisory group to the nongame program.

Programs Supported By Checkoff Income

1. Threatened and endangered species research and management

Examples include:

Least tern management and research on Cimmaron River and at Quivera National Wildlife Refuge

Gray bat critical habitat research in Pittsburg and Crawford County

Management plan for the Spring River / Shoal Creek watershed in Cherokee County - more than half of the state's threatened and endangered species are found in this region

2. Information and education programs

Examples include:

Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program - 56 Kansas households are enrolled

Publications including Mammals in Kansas and Amphibians and Reptiles

Public information programs including Eagle Days and Walk With Wildlife Programs

Information and education programs continued -

Wildlife education materials for grades K - 12

3. Nongame Wildlife Management

Examples include:

Research to develop management guidelines for grassland birds and mammals of northern Flint Hills

Golden eagle restoration project at Wilson Lake

Bluebird Nestbox Program - evaluation indicates use of boxes and an increased number of young birds produced

4. Urban Wildlife Program

Examples include:

Urban Habitat Improvement Program - a small grants program that provides funds for wildlife habitat work and nature trail development to parks departments and private organizations - Examples include Sedgwick County Zoo (Wichita), Lakewood Park (Salina), Winter Park (Topeka), Forest Park (Garden City), Merritt Horticultural Center (Kansas City), Sunflower Park (Olathe)

Work with county planning agencies on incorporating wildlife concerns into county planning and zoning efforts - Wyandotte County, Riley County, Shawnee County

Bird feeders, bird seed, and field guides provided to nursing homes and schools