

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1:30 p.m. on February 16, 1998 in Room 522-S-of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Benlon - excused  
Rep. O'Neal - excused  
Rep. E. Peterson - excused  
Rep. Shriver - excused

Committee staff present: Tom Severn, Legislative Research Department  
Mark Burenheide, Legislative Research Department  
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes  
Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Mason, proponent  
Mr. Clint Riley, Assistant Attorney for Wildlife & Parks, neutral  
Spencer Tomb, Kansas Wildlife Federation, proponent

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Allen brought the committee's attention to the hearing on **HB 2674 - Raising age for exemption from park and recreation motor vehicle permit.**

Rep. Mason appeared in support of **HB2674**, and was recognized by Chairperson Allen (**Attachment 1**).

Chairperson Allen recognized Mr. Clint Riley, Assistant Attorney for Wildlife & Parks, who stated **HB 2674** would amend current law by moving the age at which residents become eligible for this motor vehicle permit exemption from 65 years to 68 years of age (**Attachment 2**).

Spencer Tomb, Kansas Wildlife Federation, spoke in support of **HB2674**. Mr. Tomb stated the Wildlife Federation is in support of **HB2674**. Purchasers of hunting and fishing licenses also pay excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment and that goes to the federal government and comes back to the state based on the area of the state and the number of license holders in the state (**Attachment 3**).

Chairperson Allen closed the hearing on **HB 2674 - raising age for exemption from park and recreation motor vehicle permit.**

Chairperson Allen brought the committee's attention to working **HB 2764 - tourism fund.** **HB 2764** was heard on February 12, 1998. She asked Renaë Jefferies, Revisor, to draft a balloon to include Gary Sherrer's amendment. One item added would require a report in KDOCH's annual report to the Legislature regarding expenditures made from the state tourism fund, so the Legislature would have detailed information about the monies being spent. Renaë Jefferies passed out the balloon on **HB2764** to the committee.

**Rep. Wilk moved to adopt the balloon, and Rep. Adkins seconded the motion. Rep. Wempe requested Chairperson Allen to divide the balloon into 3 sections. Chairperson Allen asked the committee to consider page 1. The motion passed. Page 2 was the next consideration, section 2, elimination of (d & e), insertion of the new language between (d & e). The motion passed. Rep. Presta made a substitute motion in section 3 (b) to leave the word determine rather than the word recommend in the bill. Rep. Palmer seconded the motion. The motion failed. On the balloon language, Rep. Wempe made a substitute motion to leave determine in the balloon. Rep. Alldritt seconded the substitute motion. Rep. Wempe withdrew his motion. Rep. Adkins made a substitute motion to add a sentence at the end of section 3 that would state that no expenditures be made from the fund absent a recommendation from the council, and the council on a two-thirds vote may override a decision made by the Secretary of Commerce and Housing. Rep. Welshimer seconded the**

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE, Room 522-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on February 16, 1997.

**motion. The motion passed with a hand count. Yeas - 9, Nays - 5. Rep Adkins moved to pass HB 2764 out favorably as amended with a second from Rep. Wilk. The motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 1998.



WILLIAM G. (BILL) MASON  
REPRESENTATIVE, 75TH DISTRICT  
BUTLER COUNTY



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
CHAIRMAN: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
MEMBER: BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND LABOR  
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS  
BOARD MEMBER: KANSAS TECHNOLOGY  
ENTERPRISE CORPORATION

February 12, 1998

Madam Chair and Distinguished Colleagues:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of HB 2674.

The State Parks are a tremendous asset to the State for the hundreds of thousands of citizens and visitors who utilize them. We must find ways to adequately fund those parks, not only for the present but to build and maintain the infrastructure for our future visitors.

The basic philosophy of exempting our seniors from paying their fair share has always been distasteful to me. Now that I have reached that age bracket, it is downright appalling. If we are going to give a break on entrance fees to parks, it should be to young families that cannot afford to even camp in our state facilities. Generally Seniors have more expendable income for recreational activities than any other sector of society. If there is any question about this, just observe the RV's they are utilizing.

I want to congratulate Representative McKinney for sponsoring this bill. I had considered a bill but it would have been much more controversial than this bill.

Thanks for the hearing and I would urge your positive consideration of HB 2674.

I would be glad to stand for questions.

House Tourism  
02-16-98  
Attachment 1



STATE OF KANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PAR.

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Topeka, KS 66612-1233  
785/296-2281 FAX 785/296-6953



Testimony on House Bill No. 2674

Presented to: House Committee on Tourism  
Provided by: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Date: February 16, 1998

According to K.S.A. 32-901, a motor vehicle permit is required to use a motor vehicle in any Kansas State Park. Department regulation sets the price of a daily motor vehicle permit at \$4.00, an annual motor vehicle permit at \$30.00, and an additional annual motor vehicle permit at \$15.00. (These prices include a \$.50 service charge.)

In the past, the Kansas Legislature has established various exemptions to the motor vehicle permit requirement, one of which applies to Kansas residents 65 or more years of age. These residents may obtain a special permit, for a \$.50 service charge, for a vehicle for which the resident is the titleholder.

HB 2674 would amend current law by moving the age at which residents become eligible for this motor vehicle permit exemption from 65 years to 68 years of age. The change would be accomplished by increasing the age limit by one year for three consecutive calendar years. Consequently, no individual would ever cease to be eligible for the exemption after having become eligible at one time.

Because a certain number of park users would no longer be exempt from purchasing motor vehicle permits under this bill, those individuals between 65 and 68 who continue to visit State Parks would add a certain amount of revenue to the Park Fee Fund. The department estimates that approximately \$12,000 may be added to the Park Fee Fund in FY 2000, and that increased revenue due to the bill may increase to \$35,000 by FY 2002 and subsequent years.

The department notes that, as a general rule, fee exemptions hamper the department's ability to generate user fee revenue, although the department understands part of its mandate to be that user fees should constitute its primary source of funding. To the extent HB 2674 would increase Park Fee Fund revenue through the increased application of user fees, the bill would assist in funding for management of the state park system.

House Tourism  
02-16-98  
Attachment 2

# **Kansas Wildlife Federation**

## **1998 RESOLUTION**

### **SUPPORT FOR INCREASING THE AGE FOR EXEMPTION FROM PURCHASING KANSAS HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES AND STATE PARK PERMITS**

**Whereas, the State of Kansas currently provides exemption for persons over age 65 from the requirement to purchase fishing and hunting licenses and state park permits in order to avail themselves of the privileges to utilize fish and wildlife resources and those related to the State Park System; and**

**Whereas, the expected life span for Americans and Kansans is increasing because of medical technology and better life-style choices; and**

**Whereas, Kansans currently reach age 65 in better health than their predecessors two or three generations earlier when such exemption were created and therefore can expect to use these natural resources for a longer period of time; and**

**Whereas, the increasing use of these natural resources by persons over age 65 is not without attendant costs to the state; and**

**Whereas, there is no current funding system designed to offset the costs incurred by use by Kansans over age 65; and**

**Whereas, potential costs to individuals for fishing and hunting licenses and state park permits are very small compared to the expenditures these same individuals make to equip and outfit themselves and for travel to utilize these resources; and**

**Whereas, potential costs to individuals for fishing and hunting licenses and state park permits are very small compared to expenditures for alternate recreational pursuits; and**

**Whereas, active Kansas hunters and anglers over age 65 are not included in the formulae to allocate Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Funds (Pittman-Robertson) or Federal Aid in Fisheries Restoration funds (Dingell-Johnson) to the State of Kansas by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and**

**Whereas, Kansans over 65 currently enjoying the benefits of exemptions to fishing, hunting and park fees should not be expected to start paying such fees; and**

House Tourism  
02-16-98  
Attachment 3

**Whereas, past legislative efforts to increase age level for such exemptions to fishing, hunting and park licenses and fees have failed when linked to an *en masse* approach; and**

**Whereas, the Kansas Wildlife Federation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and sustained wise use of our natural resources and the preservation of outdoor recreation;**

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Kansas Wildlife Federation, assembled during its annual meeting February 6-7, 1998 in Manhattan, Kansas endorses the raising of age exemptions to age 70, based on a incremental approach, so that all persons born after July 1, 1933 would be required to purchase hunting and fishing licenses and state park permits in order to avail themselves of the privilege to utilize fisheries and wildlife resources and those related to the State Park System; and**

**Be It Further Resolved, that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson of the House Environmental Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, and the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Parks.**