

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Tyson at 8:35 a.m. on March 7, 2002 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: All present

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Deborah McIntire, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Clint Riley, Department of Wildlife and Parks

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Tyson opened the hearing on **HB 2679**.

Chairman Tyson asked Raney Gilliland (Legislative Research Department) to explain **HB 2679**. He explained that this bill would amend the section of law dealing with the issuance of a lifetime fishing, hunting, or furharvester or combination hunting and fishing license to require that the person applying for the license have at least one year of residence in the State of Kansas before application. The current law requires a 60-day residency. Questions and discussion followed.

The first conferee and proponent was Clint Riley (Department of Wildlife and Parks) (Attachment 1). Questions and discussion followed.

Chairman Tyson closed the hearing on **HB 2679**.

Senator Huelskamp moved that the minutes from the February 21 and February 22 meetings be approved, seconded by Senator Taddiken. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8 at 8:30 a.m.



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HOUSE BILL NO. 2679

**Testimony Provided to
Senate Committee on Natural Resources
March 7, 2002**

For purposes of eligibility for lifetime hunting, fishing, furharvester, or combination licenses, HB 2679 would require that a person maintain residency in Kansas for one year, rather than 60 days as is required by current law. The statutory definition of "resident" applicable to Wildlife and Parks laws and regulations currently requires that a person "maintain[] the person's place of permanent abode in this state for a period of 60 days immediately preceding the person's application. . . ." K.S.A. 32-701(p). The statute also describes factors to determine what it means to maintain a place of permanent abode, including "domiciliary intent." Eligibility for a lifetime license is extended only to Kansas residents, and therefore these licenses are available only to persons meeting this statutory definition.

A lifetime license carries several benefits, including the ability to continue to claim status as a Kansas resident after moving out of the state. Therefore, in addition to the financial benefit from no longer buying annual hunting, fishing, or furharvester licenses, a lifetime license also guarantees eligibility for other permits available to Kansas residents. Consequently, an increasing number of people seem tempted push the limits of legal eligibility for a lifetime license. For example, a person who has temporary summer job in Kansas may decide to apply as a Kansas resident, perhaps after signing a three-month apartment lease, temporarily changing voter registration, or registering a car.

An application of this kind can have two different impacts. First, the department has had to devote an increasing amount of investigative time to lifetime license applications, to determine whether these applicants truly have domiciliary intent to change their permanent abode to Kansas. Second, when a person has taken all objective steps to meet the definition of a Kansas resident, the license will be issued, and consequently a person might obtain a special benefit of citizenship after only 60 days, and then immediately leave the state.

Because the benefits of a lifetime license are considerable greater than other resident permits and licenses, and because the legislature has previously decided to make lifetime licenses available to Kansas residents, the department believes the time period to qualify for these licenses should be increased to one year, and thereby guarantee that only persons truly intending to be Kansas residents receive these benefits.