

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Myers at 3:30 P.M. on February 6, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Virginia Beamer- excused  
Representative Gary Hayzlett- excused  
Representative Margaret Long- excused  
Representative L. Candy Ruff- excused  
Representative Mark Treaster- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research  
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Betty Caruthers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Doug Gatewood  
Chris Tymeson, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Moved by Representative Flaharty, seconded by Representative Holmes for approval of Minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks & Tourism held on February 1, 2006 be approved.

Motion carried.

Chairman Myers asked for any bill introductions by Committee members. Representative Mah requested the introduction of a bill to rename State Park #24 the C.F. Menninger State Park. Chairman Myers asked the Committee if there were any objections to the introduction of this bill. There were no objections.

Chairman Myers asked if there were any other bill introductions and there were none.

Chairman Myers announced that this Committee would not be meeting Wednesday, February 8 but that the Sub-Committee for **HB 2210** would be meeting at this Committee time.

Hearings on **HB 2561 - Appointment of Members to Wildlife & Parks Commission**, were opened.

Chairman Myers recognized Representative Doug Gatewood as the proponent for the bill who discussed a possible amendment for **HB 2561**. Representative Gatewood stated that there are currently 7 members on the Commission as appointees with no required consideration given as to regions of the State. There are 5 Wildlife regions within the State and currently the southeast region is not represented. **HB 2561** would do away with all appointments and reappointments would need to be made. The term of two of the present Commission members will end June 30, 2006 and an amendment would say that the Governor shall appoint representatives from five of the Wildlife & Parks administrative regions. Representative Gatewood also stated that it could say each of the regions would be represented rather than using the number five.

Representative Myers recognized Chris Tymeson to give testimony from a neutral position. (Attachment 1) He stated that the only reason the southeast region is not presently represented on the Commission is due to an early retirement and short notice to fill the position for the term. The next available opportunity for an appointment will be July 1, 2006.

Chairman Myers closed the hearings on **HB 2561**.

Chairman Myers announced a presentation by Rick Dykstra on Building Outdoor Tourism in Kansas for Monday, February 13, and a hearing on **HCR 5034** on Wednesday, February 15.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 6, 2006 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Myers adjourned the meeting at 3:55.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2006.



# KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

**Testimony on HB 2561 relating to Commissioner Appointments  
To  
House Committee on Wildlife, Parks and Tourism**

**By Christopher J. Tymeson  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

**February 6, 2006**

House Bill No. 2561 would amend K.S.A. 32-805 relating to appointment of members of the Wildlife and Parks Commission. The provisions of this bill would be effective on July 1, 2006.

Current law states that appointments to the Wildlife and Parks Commission, a seven member body, are made by the Governor with consideration given to the appointment of licensed hunters, anglers and furharvesters, park users and nonconsumptive users of wildlife and parks resources. Geographic balance among commission members is also taken into account during the appointment process. Commissioners serve 4 year terms and no more than 4 of the members may be of one political party.

The Department would like to point out that passage of the current bill is unnecessary. The genesis of the bill arises from the southeastern part of the State. Late last year, one member of the Commission, from southeastern Kansas, resigned his appointment to coincide with his retirement from his profession. Due to the early retirement and short notice to find a suitable candidate, an individual was appointed to fill his term but was not from the southeastern part of the state. However, it was expected that an appointment would be made again for a person representing the southeastern part of the state at the next available opportunity, July 1, 2006. The bill attempts to rectify a situation unnecessarily. Further, the bill would constrain the current administration and future Governors of the State from appointing the best and most qualified individuals.

Should the bill proceed from this committee, the department would note that it appears there are several technical amendments that appear necessary.

House Committee on Wildlife, Parks  
and Tourism  
2/06/06  
Attachment 1

Office of the Secretary

1020 S Kansas Ave., Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1327

Phone 785-296-2281 Fax 785-296-6953 www.kdwrn.state.ks.us