

MINUTES OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS SELECT COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lee Tafanelli at 4:00 P.M. on March 9, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Kasha Kelley- excused  
Representative Mike Peterson- excused

Committee staff present:

Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Gina Bowes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mike Hayden, Secretary, Department of Wildlife & Parks  
Representative Richard Carlson  
Representative Anthony Brown  
Jeff Lawson, Past State Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Jim Bunker, Veteran Information Network  
Chuck Yunker, Adjutant, American Legion  
George Webb, Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Overview of **HB 2894**
- Attachment 2 Testimony by Mike Hayden, Secretary, Department of Wildlife & Parks
- Attachment 3 Testimony by Representative Richard Carlson
- Attachment 4 Testimony by Representative Anthony Brown
- Attachment 5 Testimony by Jeff Lawson, Past State Commander for Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Attachment 6 Testimony by Jim Bunker, Veteran Information Network
- Attachment 7 Testimony by Charles Yunker, Adjutant, American Legion
- Attachment 8 Testimony by George Webb, Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs

**Hearing on HB 2894 - Concerning hunting and fishing licenses for veterans.**

Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research, explained sections of **HB 2894** (Attachment 1) which exempts veterans who reside in Kansas from being required to purchase hunting and fishing licenses. Staff further explained that free admission to state parks to Kansas veterans was not a provision included in this bill.

Mike Hayden, Secretary of Department of Wildlife & Parks, presented testimony in opposition of **HB 2894** (Attachment 2). Secretary Hayden stated the bill provides no replacement funding for free hunting and fishing licensing privileges for Kansas veterans; nevertheless he expressed his willingness to work with the Committee and the Legislature to recognize our veterans if it could be accomplished on a fiscally sound basis. Secretary Hayden also addressed the need for a clear and finite definition for "veteran" in this bill. He also noted the provisions of the bill would be effective July 1, 2006 for licensure and the Department of Wildlife & Parks begins its licensing on the calendar year; therefore he suggested changing the effective date to January 1, 2006. Secretary Hayden stood for questions.

Representative Richard Carlson presented testimony in support of **HB 2894** (Attachment 3). Representative Carlson stood for questions.

Representative Anthony Brown presented testimony in support of **HB 2894** (Attachment 4). Representative Brown expressed veterans utilizing on this provision of the law be required to provide some sort of official

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Veterans Affairs Select Committee at 4:00 P.M. on March 9, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

documentation such as the DD-214 record of discharge to prove their status. He also stated without a provision to reimburse the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks for licenses provided to veterans, the Department would not be able to receive the full amount of federal aid apportionment to which the state is entitled. Rep. Brown stood for questions.

Jeff Lawson, Past State Commander, Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars, presented testimony in support of **HB 2894** (Attachment 5). Mr. Lawson suggested consideration be given to those veterans who are rated 100% disabled permanent and total by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which would significantly lessen the fiscal impact on the state. Mr. Lawson stood for questions. Mr. Lawson responded to a question related to a definition of "veteran". Chair Tafanelli stated that a legal definition for "veteran" was necessary because of the potential fiscal impact to the state.

Jim Bunker, Veteran Information Network, presented testimony in support of **HB 2894** (Attachment 6). Mr. Bunker stood for questions.

Charles Yunker, Adjutant, American Legion, presented testimony in support of **HB 2894** (Attachment 7). Mr. Yunker stood for questions.

George Webb, Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, presented testimony in support of **HB 2894** (Attachment 8). Mr. Webb stated that currently free hunting and fishing licenses apply to members of the Kansas National Guard, but not to all veterans. He also noted that Kansas agencies do not confer veteran status to military personnel who remain on active duty and that the Committee may wish to consider that factor. Mr. Webb stood for questions.

Chair Tafanelli closed the hearing on **HB 2894**.

Chair Tafanelli went on to the next order of business, **HB 2746**.

Representative Burgess moved to make three amendments to the **HB 2746**, first to change the effective date to January 1, 2007 instead of July 1, 2006 (Page 3, Line 17); second to add a \$40 first time user fee to help pay for the cost of manufacturing the plate; and third to add "comma Inc." after the words Kansas Support Our Troops to the following: Page 1, line 23, line 27, line 30 and line 31; Page 2, line 12, line 16 and line 19 as well as anywhere else this may apply. The motion was seconded by Representative Ruiz.

Representative Burgess moved to recommend **HB 2746** favorable for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Ruiz. Motion carried.

Representative Ruff moved to approve the minutes, as written, of February 1 and February 13. The motion was seconded by Representative Grange. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting will be "on call of the Chair".

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

GUEST LIST

DATE: March 9, 2006

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jim Bunker	Veteran Information Network
George Webb	KCVA
Jim Frederick	KCVA
Ward Cook	Support Our Troops, Inc.
Carmen Alcott	KDOD
Diane Albert	KDOR
Mike Hayden	KDWP
Dick Gerth	KDWP
Jamie Corkhill	SRS
Kennie Leffler	Budget
Ken Stodell	VFW
Charles	The Am Legion
Paul	Ks DFW
JEFFERSON D. LAWSON	Ks VFW

## HOUSE BILL No. 2894

By Representative Brown

2-13

9 AN ACT concerning hunting and fishing; relating to licenses for veterans;  
10 amending K.S.A. 32-919 and K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 32-906 and repealing  
11 the existing sections.

12

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

14 Section 1. K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 32-906 is hereby amended to read as  
15 follows: 32-906. (a) Except as otherwise provided by law or rules and  
16 regulations of the secretary, a valid Kansas fishing license is required to  
17 fish or to take any bullfrog in this state.

18 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) do not apply to fishing by:

19 (1) A person, or a member of a person's immediate family domiciled  
20 with such person, on land owned by such person or on land leased or  
21 rented by such person for agricultural purposes;

22 (2) a resident of this state who is less than 16 years of age or who is  
23 65 or more years of age;

24 (3) a nonresident who is less than 16 years of age;

25 (4) a person fishing in a private water fishing impoundment unless  
26 waived pursuant to K.S.A. 32-975 and amendments thereto;

27 (5) a resident of an adult care home, as defined by K.S.A. 39-923 and  
28 amendments thereto, licensed by the secretary of aging;

29 (6) an inmate in an honor camp operated by the secretary of correc-  
30 tions, pursuant to an agreement between the secretary of corrections and  
31 the secretary of wildlife and parks;

32 (7) a person on dates designated pursuant to subsection (f);

33 (8) a person fishing under a valid institutional group fishing license  
34 issued pursuant to subsection (g); ~~or~~

35 (9) a participant in a fishing clinic sponsored or cosponsored by the  
36 department, during the period of time that the fishing clinic is being  
37 conducted; *or*

38 (10) *a veteran who resides in the state of Kansas.*

39 (c) The fee for a fishing license shall be the amount prescribed pur-  
40 suant to K.S.A. 32-988 and amendments thereto.

41 (d) Unless otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the  
42 secretary, a fishing license is valid throughout the state.

43 (e) Unless otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AFFAIRS

DATE 3-9-06

ATTACHMENT 1

1 secretary, a fishing license is valid from the date of issuance and expires  
2 on December 31 following its issuance, except that the secretary may  
3 issue a:

4 (1) Permanent license pursuant to K.S.A. 32-929 and amendments  
5 thereto;

6 (2) lifetime license pursuant to K.S.A. 32-930 and amendments  
7 thereto;

8 (3) nonresident fishing license valid for a period of five days; and

9 (4) resident or nonresident fishing license valid for a period of 24  
10 hours.

11 (f) The secretary may designate by resolution two days each calendar  
12 year during which persons may fish by legal means without having a valid  
13 fishing license.

14 (g) The secretary shall issue an annual institutional group fishing li-  
15 cense to each facility operating under the jurisdiction of or licensed by  
16 the secretary of social and rehabilitation services and to any veterans ad-  
17 ministration medical center in the state of Kansas upon application by  
18 such facility or center to the secretary of wildlife and parks for such  
19 license.

20 All applications for facilities under the jurisdiction of the secretary of  
21 social and rehabilitation services shall be made with the approval of the  
22 secretary of social and rehabilitation services and shall provide such in-  
23 formation as the secretary of wildlife and parks requires. All applications  
24 for any veterans administration medical center shall be made with the  
25 approval of the director of such facility and shall provide such information  
26 as the secretary of wildlife and parks requires. Persons who have been  
27 admitted to and are currently residing at the facility or center, not to  
28 exceed 20 at any one time, may fish under an institutional group fishing  
29 license within the state while on a group trip, group outing or other group  
30 activity which is supervised by the facility or center. Persons fishing under  
31 an institutional group fishing license shall not be required to obtain a  
32 fishing license but shall be subject to all other laws and to all rules and  
33 regulations relating to fishing.

34 The staff personnel of the facility or center supervising the group trip,  
35 group outing or other group activity shall have in their possession the  
36 institutional license when engaged in supervising any activity requiring  
37 the license. Such staff personnel may assist group members in all aspects  
38 of their fishing activity.

39 (h) The secretary may issue a special nonprofit group fishing license  
40 to any community, civic or charitable organization which is organized as  
41 a not-for-profit corporation, for use by such community, civic or chari-  
42 table organization for the sole purpose of conducting group fishing activ-  
43 ities for handicapped or developmentally disabled individuals. All appli-

1 cations for a special nonprofit group fishing license shall be made to the  
2 secretary or the secretary's designee and shall provide such information  
3 as required by the secretary.

4 Handicapped or developmentally disabled individuals, not to exceed  
5 20 at any one time, may fish under a special nonprofit group fishing  
6 license while on a group trip, outing or activity which is supervised by the  
7 community, civic or charitable organization. Individuals fishing under a  
8 special nonprofit group fishing license shall not be required to obtain a  
9 fishing license but shall be subject to all other laws and rules and regu-  
10 lations relating to fishing.

11 The staff personnel of the community, civic or charitable organization  
12 supervising the group trip, outing or activity shall have in their possession  
13 the special nonprofit group fishing license when engaged in supervising  
14 any activity requiring the special nonprofit group fishing license. Such  
15 staff personnel may assist group members in all aspects of their fishing  
16 activity.

17 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 32-919 is hereby amended to read as follows: 32-919.

18 (a) Except as otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the  
19 secretary, a valid Kansas hunting license is required to hunt in this state.

20 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) do not apply to hunting by:

21 (1) A person, or a member of a person's immediate family domiciled  
22 with such person, on land owned by such person or on land leased or  
23 rented by such person for agricultural purposes;

24 (2) a resident of this state who is less than 16 years of age or who is  
25 65 or more years of age;

26 (3) a nonresident participating in a field trial for dogs, recognized by  
27 rules and regulations adopted by the secretary in accordance with K.S.A.  
28 32-805 and amendments thereto;

29 (4) a person who holds a valid permit issued to such person pursuant  
30 to subsection (f) and who hunts only waterfowl; ~~or~~

31 (5) a person hunting only moles or gophers; *or*

32 (6) *a veteran who resides in the state of Kansas.*

33 (c) The fee for a hunting license shall be the amount prescribed pur-  
34 suant to K.S.A. 32-988 and amendments thereto.

35 (d) Unless otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the  
36 secretary, a hunting license is valid throughout the state, except that the  
37 secretary may issue a special controlled shooting area license which is  
38 valid only for licensed controlled shooting areas.

39 (e) Unless otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the  
40 secretary, a hunting license is valid from the date of issuance and expires  
41 on December 31 following its issuance, except that:

42 (1) The secretary may issue a permanent license pursuant to K.S.A.  
43 32-929 and amendments thereto;

1 (2) the secretary may issue a lifetime license pursuant to K.S.A. 32-  
2 930 and amendments thereto.

3 (f) A 48-hour waterfowl permit may be issued which authorizes hunt-  
4 ing of waterfowl in this state subject to all other provisions of law and  
5 rules and regulations of the secretary. The fee for such permit shall be  
6 the amount prescribed pursuant to K.S.A. 32-988 and amendments  
7 thereto. Such permit is valid throughout the state, is valid from the time  
8 designated on the permit and expires 48 hours after such time. Purchase  
9 of such permit shall not affect the requirement to purchase any federal  
10 migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp or state migratory water-  
11 fowl habitat stamp.

12 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 32-919 and K.S.A. 2005 Supp. 32-906 are hereby  
13 repealed.

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

# KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

**Testimony on HB 2894 relating to Free Hunting and Fishing Privileges for Veterans  
To  
House Sub-Committee on Veterans Affairs**

**By J. Michael Hayden  
Secretary  
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

**February 22, 2006**

House Bill 2894 would amend K.S.A. 32-906 to allow for free fishing by veterans, and K.S.A. 32-919 to allow for free hunting by veterans. The provisions of this bill would be effective on July 1, 2006. **The Department is opposed to the provisions contained in this bill.**

While the Department strongly supports members of the various branches of the military that currently serve our country as well as veterans, the bill contains no provisions to replace lost funding for providing the free privileges. The bill also contains some provisions that will be difficult to enforce.

Currently the Department has a program in place that offers free hunting and fishing licenses as well as park permits to members of the Kansas National Guard. The licenses and permits issued are reimbursed by an appropriation of state general funds on a first-come, first-served basis. While the Department generally supports free issuances to members of the military, the costs of that appreciation should be borne by all members of society in the form of an appropriated general fund, not borne on the backs of current park users, hunters and anglers. In addition, the fiscal impact for free fishing and hunting is not just lost revenue in direct dollars but also federal aid dollars, which are dependent on the number of licenses sold. Increasing user bases without adequate funding to support programs is not sound public policy.

The Department would appreciate your support in opposition to the bill.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AFFAIRS

DATE 3-9-06

ATTACHMENT 2

Office of the Secretary  
1020 S Kansas Ave., Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1327



RICHARD CARLSON  
 REPRESENTATIVE, 61ST DISTRICT  
 HOME ADDRESS: 26810 JEFFREY RD  
 ST. MARYS, KANSAS 66536  
 785-535-8271  
 EMAIL: swpangel@oct.net

OFFICE ADDRESS: STATE CAPITOL, SUITE 180-W  
 TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504  
 (785) 296-7636



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
 REPRESENTATIVES

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE  
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
 GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND  
 COMMERCE BUDGET  
 TAXATION

February 23, 2006

Chairman Tafanelli, members of Select Committee on Veteran Affairs:

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today on behalf of the Veterans of the State of Kansas. I would encourage you to pass out favorably HB 2894, concerning free hunting licenses for the veterans of our state.

I am veteran and I was called to duty with the 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade for two years during the Viet-Nam conflict. I ended up serving over 9 years total in the Kansas National Guard. As the Company Commander of the Brigade headquarters company, I personally observed many of our soldiers tremendous sacrifices in terms of personal injuries, separation from families and financial hardships.

The veterans of today are having to go through the same hardships and in many cases even tougher times. For the past 15 or more years, I have also served as a Volunteer Area Unit Representative for the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Helping the young men and women of today through deployment problems with their employers and informing them of their rights has been a satisfying experience.

I believe in our volunteer reserve and regular forces. I would hope the citizens would also support free hunting licenses for these outstanding men and women who have sacrificed so much for us. Freedom does not come easily or without sacrifices, let us show our appreciation for their service to Kansas and America. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Carlson  
 Representative  
 61<sup>st</sup> District

RC/cm

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
 AFFAIRS  
 DATE 3-9-06  
 ATTACHMENT 3

STATE OF KANSAS

ANTHONY R. BROWN  
REPRESENTATIVE, 38TH DISTRICT  
1229 ACORN STREET  
EUDORA, KANSAS 66025  
(785) 542-2293

STATE CAPITOL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

TAXATION  
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thank you Chairman Tapanelli, Vice-Chair Holmes, and Ranking Member Ruff for allowing me to testify about hunting and fishing license for veterans. I hate to say it but this is a simple concept.

I. Free hunting and fishing license for veterans

- A. Must be instate resident
- B. Must be able to prove veteran status
- C. Left to the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks

II. Fiscal Note

- A. Approx. \$1.5 Million
- B. Additional lose of \$500,000 from Federal
- C. Will have a proviso in the omnibus budget  
To offset the \$500,000 from Feds

III. Reasons for Legislation

- A. Vets are proud and do not ask for much
- B. Allows father and sons and daughter low cost recreation
- C. Lets veterans know we honor their service

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AFFAIRS

DATE 3-9-06

ATTACHMENT 4

## FISCAL NOTE FOR HOUSE BILL 2894

Prepared by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

### ANALYSIS:

This bill seeks to amend K.S.A. 32-906 and K.S.A. 32-919 to allow veterans who reside in the state to not be required to have hunting or fishing licenses. The provisions of the bill would be effective July 1, 2006.

### OPERATIONS STATEMENT:

The department anticipates there would be an operational impact as a result of the provisions contained in this bill. Veterans relying on this provision of the law would be required to carry some sort of identification such as the DD-214 record of discharge to prove their status.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The department anticipates there would be a negative fiscal impact to the department as a result of the provisions contained in this bill. Presuming the population of veterans residing in the state hunts and fishes at roughly the same rate as the general population, ten percent of the veterans would hunt and twenty-one percent of the veterans would fish. The Kansas Veterans Commission estimates that there are 246,000 veterans within the State. Therefore, approximately 24,600 are estimated to currently obtain hunting licenses and 51,660 would obtain fishing licenses for an estimated total of 76,260 free licenses issued per year.

The cost for obtaining a fishing or hunting licenses, with issuance fees, is \$20.15. The fiscal impact in lost revenue to the Wildlife Fee fund would be \$1,536,639. In addition, the KDWP receives a federal aid appropriation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based in part on the number of fishing and hunting licenses sold in the preceding calendar year. The Department estimates that each free hunting license issued an amount of \$7.99 in federal aid would be lost. The amount for each free fishing license issued is \$6.34. The total amount of federal aid apportionment, which the KDWP would not be able to receive, is estimated at \$524,078.

The total estimated loss in revenue to the Wildlife Fee fund from the provisions of HB 2894 is \$2,060,717. The loss of revenue resulting from the provisions of HB 2894 is not included in the FY 2007 Governor's Budget Report.

### ADDITIONAL STAFFING:

The department anticipates no need for additional staffing as a result of the provisions of this legislation.

LONG RANGE IMPACT:

The department opposes any further exemptions in law regarding hunting and fishing licenses. An appropriation of state general funds to offset the issuance of free hunting and fishing licenses to veterans would allow the department to capture federal aid as the license is sold and paid for by the state as a benefit to those who have served our country. Without a provision to reimburse the KDWP for licenses provided to veterans, the Department would not be able to receive the full amount of federal aid apportionment to which the State is entitled. Over a period of years this amount would be significant and represents a loss in the return of federal excise taxes paid by Kansans who obtain hunting and fishing equipment.

Proposed Language

“ There is appropriated for the above agency from the state general fund for the fiscal year or years specified, the following:

Reimbursement for annual licenses issued to Kansas veterans

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 ..... \$1,536,639

Provided, That all moneys in the reimbursement for annual licenses issued to Kansas veterans account shall be used to reimburse the wildlife fee fund for the cost of fees for annual hunting and annual fishing licenses issued for the calendar year 2007 to Kansas veterans, which licenses are hereby authorized to be issued without charge to such members in accordance with policies and procedures prescribed by the secretary of wildlife and parks therefor and subject to the limitation of the moneys appropriated and available in the reimbursement for annual licenses issued to Kansas veterans account to reimburse the wildlife fee fund for such licenses: Provided, however, That no other hunting or fishing licenses or permits shall be eligible for reimbursement from this account: Provided further, That the secretary of wildlife and parks shall certify to the director of accounts and reports on a quarterly basis an amount to be transferred from this account to the wildlife fee fund in order to reimburse the costs of such licenses: And provided further, That, upon receipt of each such certification, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer the amount certified from this account to the wildlife fee fund.

Reimbursement for annual park permits issued to Kansas veterans

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 ..... \$

Provided, That all moneys in the reimbursement for annual park vehicle permits issued to Kansas veterans account shall be used to reimburse the parks fee fund for the cost of fees for annual park vehicle permits issued for the calendar year 2007 to Kansas veterans, which annual park vehicle permits are hereby authorized to be issued without charge to such members in accordance with policies and procedures prescribed by the secretary of wildlife and parks therefor and subject to the limitation of the moneys appropriated and available in the reimbursement for annual park vehicle permits issued to Kansas veterans account to reimburse the parks fee fund for such permits: Provided, however, That not more than one annual park vehicle permit per family shall be eligible for reimbursement from this account: Provided further, That the secretary of wildlife and parks shall certify to the director of accounts and reports on a quarterly basis an amount to be transferred from this account to the parks fee fund in order to reimburse the costs of such annual park vehicle permits: And provided further, That, upon receipt of each such certification, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer the amounts certified from this account to the parks fee fund.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2894  
PRESENTED BY  
JEFFERSON D. LAWSON, PAST STATE COMMANDER  
KANSAS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Thank you for providing the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Kansas the opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of House Bill 2894 which provides hunting and fishing licenses at no cost to veterans of the United States Armed Forces who permanently reside in Kansas. These men and women have answered their nations call and yes, even this great states call to service and have done so with honor, pride and a faithful commitment to our nation and state.

Many of our veterans, particularly those on active duty, spend a great deal of their leisure time in the outdoors hunting and fishing. Especially those with families and young children with whom they wish to spend relatively inexpensive but meaningful quality time together. Outdoor activities provides a venue for not only our active duty military but also our veterans who are under 65 years in age who in many cases are raising young children and or grandchildren.

As is, the American Legion, we also are concerned about the fiscal note of House Bill 2894. We strongly agree with the Legion's stand "that the benefits far outweigh the costs. These young warriors along with their veteran brothers have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice a great deal in order to serve our country. Passage of House Bill 2894 would allow these individuals to provide a meaningful yet inexpensive vacation within the boundaries of our state and further allow these children to experience the wonders and beauty of this, our home state.

We also note the similarity between Senate Bill 395 and House Bill 2894. We believe that the Senate Bill should be more defining in the phrase "disabled veteran" to include language to read ***Disabled veteran as defined by the Department of Veterans Affairs and is being compensated by said agency.*** Furthermore we would suggest that consideration should be given to those veterans who are rated by the DVA as 100% disabled permanent and total. This would significantly lessen the fiscal impact on the state.

If House Bill 2894 needs to be amended to lessen the fiscal impact we suggest that Kansas residents serving on active duty and "those veterans who are rated 100% permanent and total disabled as defined by the DVA or those veterans who are in receipt of pension from the DVA. Be allowed hunting and fishing licenses at no cost. Again, we thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 2894.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AFFAIRS  
DATE 3-9-06  
ATTACHMENT 5



## Veteran Information Network

[www.midwestvet.org](http://www.midwestvet.org)

785-221-0162



Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I would like to thank you for letting me come before you on behalf of house bill 2894

I feel that the free fishing license and entrance to our state parks is something all veterans should have. Even more so now that many are coming home from a war and placed back into the life style they left. These men and woman are coming from combat, with out the time to readjust to being out of combat. Yes, it takes time for one to readjust to being home, and in many cases, it takes help. For me it was going fishing with my brothers and some of the older veterans from my hometown. They did think it was funny when they saw how I reacted to a truck tire blow out near us.

I guess to them hearing some one yell incoming and pulling then down in a boat would be. The sounds of a semi using a Jake-break also can get one into that "combat" mode too; but the fishing not with my brothers, but with some WWII vets did the most for me. You see, I was given some convalescent leave. I used that to go back to my home state of Wisconsin to see my family. It was there that some of the men at the VFW took me fishing, and we talked and talked and talked. It helped me a lot to spend some time relaying and learning how to adjust from these men.

I also landed the larges fish of my life back then, one I fought with for over an hour. I had to turn the Musky loose for was 46" and they changed the legal length to 48". I was bale to fish and relax in Wisconsin by only having my military ID and my driver's license. This is just there way of say "thanks!"

I kept fishing after that, but when I left the service, I was on crutches and many of the Kansas lakes are hard to get to for fishing. I did find one that was easy to fish from the banks and had camping close to the spot too. With the free pass we had back then, I spent a lot of time renting a campsite not only to fish, but also to teach my kids. I have not been fishing now for 4 years, and if this law passes, I am not sure if I will, but I might.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AFFAIRS

DATE 3-9-06

ATTACHMENT 6

**TESTIMONY ON  
HOUSE BILL 2894  
PRESENTED BY  
CHARLES M. YUNKER, ADJUTANT  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of House Bill 2894 which would provide hunting and fishing licenses at no charge to military veterans residing in Kansas. By and large citizens who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States did so out of a sense of patriotism. Once in uniform even those who were drafted normally adopted a sense of duty and patriotism. Likewise, today's "all volunteer" military personnel share the same sense of duty and patriotism embraced by those who served before them.

Many veterans, especially those on active duty, spend their off duty hours and time on leave in the outdoors hunting and fishing. Especially those with young children with whom they wish to spend relatively inexpensive but very meaningful quality time together. Outdoor sports provide such a venue for not only active duty military but for veterans less than 65 years of age who, in many cases are raising young families or in some cases, grandchildren.

Admittedly I am somewhat concerned about the fiscal note of House Bill 2894. At the same time I believe the benefits far out weigh the costs, especially in this day and age because high fuel prices limit many younger veterans' ability to take their families on extended vacations. In fact House Bill 2894 could have a very positive impact on Kansas tourism by encouraging our own citizens to vacation more within our own borders or to volunteer for youth groups to teach them the joys of outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing.

Senate Bill 395 is similar to House Bill 2894 in that it limits no cost hunting and fishing licenses to "disabled" veterans. However it does not define the extent of disability required in order to qualify should SB 395 become law. The reason I mention SB 395 is I have been informed its fiscal note is somewhere in the thirty thousand dollar range based upon the estimated number of disabled veterans less than 65 years of age who would apply for hunting or fishing licenses.

If House Bill 2894 needs to be amended due to its initial fiscal note I would suggest that Kansas residents on active military duty and disabled veterans be granted no cost hunting and fishing licenses. Again I thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of House Bill 2894.

Sincerely,

  
Charles M. Yunker

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AFFAIRS  
DATE 3-9-06  
ATTACHMENT 7





# KANSAS COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Chairman Jack Fowler

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Executive Director George Webb

February 23, 2006

Chairman Lee Tafanelli  
House Veterans Affairs Committee

SUBJECT: Testimony on HB 2894

Dear Representative Tafanelli:

I wish to make a few brief comments on HB 2894 regarding hunting and fishing licenses for veterans. Though the KCVA did not initiate this bill directly, we did cite this issue last fall with the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and stand squarely behind the proposal.

The KCVA does not have a formal record of constituent veterans benefits requests, but of all that we hear about, free or discounted hunting and fishing license to Kansas veterans would be the one we hear about most. Generally this comes from Kansans who are moving in from other states.

By our own informal review of other states, 43 states offer free or reduced fishing licenses to vets, and 42 states offer the same for hunting licenses. Most of those have a disability mandate, but not all. Kansas's current free licenses apply to members of the Kansas National Guard, but not to all veterans.

As a matter of interest, my own experience is that Kansas agencies do not confer veteran status to military personnel – even legal Kansas residents – who remain on active duty. The committee may wish to consider that factor. Other veterans benefits, such as authorization for veterans' license plates, require proof of completed service on a DD 214, something that still-serving Guardsmen and Reservists generally have but active duty troops do not.

Respectfully,

George S. Webb  
Executive Director

SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AFFAIRS

DATE 3-9-06

ATTACHMENT 8