

SESSION OF 2003

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 135

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Agriculture

Brief*

SB 135 would make modifications in the definition section of the Kansas Meat and Poultry Act. Specifically, the bill would modify the definition of the term "livestock" to exclude from the term buffalo or domesticated deer slaughtered for sport or recreational purposes.

Background

Under current Kansas law, buffalo and domesticated deer are considered to be "livestock" and can be slaughtered at a state-inspected meat processing facility. These species are not amenable to the federal definition of "livestock," but because they are included in the Kansas act, the meat from these animals may be sold across state lines if the animals had ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection. The modifications to the Kansas definition under this bill allow these animals to be presented for processing as if they were wild animals harvested in the wild. If presented in this manner, the meat from the animals could only be processed for owner consumption and not put out for sale to the public. Individuals wanting to offer the meat from a buffalo or domesticated deer harvested in a sport or recreation shoot in the interstate market would have to make arrangements for a veterinarian to conduct an ante-mortem inspection and witness the shoot. A post-mortem inspection would have to occur as well. Without these inspections, the meat from these animals could only be used by the owner for personal consumption. For those producers who wish to have buffalo or domestic deer slaughtered under full inspection, they may do so since these animals are still amenable to the Kansas Meat and

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

Poultry Inspection Act if not slaughtered for sport or recreational purposes.

At the hearing on the bill, the Committee was told that in the past few years, a new endeavor had been offered by some Kansans. This new endeavor is the sport hunting of buffalo. The Committee heard that buffalo and domesticated deer are amenable to the Kansas Meat and Poultry Act and therefore are either required to have an ante-mortem inspection or to be field skinned and taken to a plant for processing. The bill would allow buffalo and domesticated deer to be handled exactly as one would deal with a wild deer. Senator Huelskamp and Acting Secretary of Agriculture Foley testified in favor of the bill. There were no opponents to the bill.

The fiscal note on the bill indicates no fiscal impact on either the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks or the Kansas Department of Agriculture.