

Approved: February 2, 2010

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell at 3:30 p.m. on January 26, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Pat Matzek, Committee Assistant - Excused

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

PROPOSERS:

Representative Joe Seiwert
Carl Marks, an individual

OPPOSERS:

Christopher J. Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Doug Phelps, Manhattan, Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the meeting with the hearing on **HB 2458** and requested Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, to give a briefing of the bill to members of the Committee.

Mr. Yoza stated the purpose of this bill is to require any person who holds an archery license to take a doe before taking a buck.

Representative Joe Seiwert testified in favor of **HB 2458** (Attachment 1), stating his main objective is to make the roads safer for the people of Kansas. Representative Seiwert further stated the need to weed out or cull the does and promote herd quality, which he believes this bill would accomplish and ultimately lessen the number of growing vehicle-deer collisions instead of the vicious circle of overpopulating lower ranking bucks, does and accidents.

Carl Marks presented testimony in favor of **HB 2458**, indicating that in the areas in the counties in Kansas, 53 counties out of the 105 reported cost of vehicle repairs due to deer-related accidents (Attachments 2 and 3). Mr. Marks further commented that he wasn't sure if he for or against the bill but sees poor quality in deer population and there is no incentive to kill does; hunters want the bucks. A resident hunter could buy game tags a year ago for \$10.00 and last year it went up to \$17.50. If hunters want to kill deer, why would there be a price increase to shoot them. Out of state hunters when buying a doe tag or antlerless tag, the cost is \$77.50. They already spent \$72.50 for the hunting license and \$ 322.50 for a deer permit and then would be required to pay \$77.50 to harvest the does. Mr. Marks' suggestion is to give the rifle hunters part of November as well as part of December and be lenient on the cost of the permit.

Christopher J. Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (Department), spoke in opposition of **HB 2458** (Attachment 4), stating while the proposal might increase revenue to the Department because more hunters would be forced to purchase antlerless permits, it might actually discourage hunters from participating from both a financial as well as operational viewpoint. Mr. Tymeson further added that a proposal such as this has many other limiting factors, such as access to land, weather, habitat, local deer herd structure, timing, etc. Mr. Tymeson stated the Department already has in place many methods to deal with increasing harvest in areas and a one size-fits-all proposal such as this would most likely end up being a limiting factor in controlling deer numbers.

Doug Phelps, Manhattan, Kansas, appeared as an opponent of **HB 2458** (Attachment 5), stating establishing a doe category creates a regulatory conundrum since the only categories are antlered and antlerless deer and

1/26

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on January 26, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

further that adding a third category only complicates an already difficult set of regulations. Mr. Phelps further stated that enforcing this requirement would be a logistical nightmare, diverting funds and manpower for the State's smallest agency, one that has suffered revenue restrictions far longer than the current existing crisis.

At the conclusion of questions and comments made by members of the Committee, the hearing was closed on **HB 2458**.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.