

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Larry Powell, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Statehouse, Room 237-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Powell:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 269 by Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 269 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 269 excludes the eastern spotted skunk from the list of species of wildlife indigenous to Kansas which have been determined to be endangered. Current law directs the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to give full consideration to determine whether species of wildlife that have been determined to be threatened or endangered by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 “and amendments thereto,” are also threatened or endangered species in Kansas. SB 269 would change that statutory reference to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 “as in effect on July 1, 2015.”

According to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, passage of SB 269 has the potential to reduce agency expenditures by reducing the necessity for threatened and endangered action permit reviews that would be required by the listing of the eastern spotted skunk as a threatened species. However, the agency is unable to estimate the extent of the reduction in reviews. The Attorney General indicates that the only potential cost from passage of SB 269 would come from a legal challenge and that such a challenge would be defended using existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 269 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor’s Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Chris Tymeson, KDWPT
Willie Prescott, Attorney General’s Office