

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 120

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Natural Resources

Brief*

SB 120 would exempt the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) from law regarding land purchases. Current law states that the purchase of land greater than 320 acres in the aggregate by the KDWPT must be approved by the Legislature the purchase of land less than 640 acres in the aggregate, owned by a private individual, where the purchase price is an amount less than the appraised value is exempt from that requirement. The bill would exempt KDWPT from these provisions when purchasing lands with Natural Resource Damage and Restoration funds.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

At the Senate Committee hearing on the bill, the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism presented testimony in favor of the bill. The Secretary stated that by allowing purchases with Natural Resource Damage and Restoration funds without the approval of the Legislature, the KDWPT will be able to utilize federal funds in a timely manner, to the benefit of the citizens of the State.

A representative of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) also provided testimony in support

*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>

of the bill. The KDHE representative stated the source of funding for the projects is from settlements with private companies and no state money would be spent to acquire or manage the properties. The KDHE representative stated the KDWPT would be able to move quickly to acquire property when a seller is identified.

A representative of the Kansas Farm Bureau provided testimony against the bill, stating the Kansas Farm Bureau members would prefer the KDWPT to lease the land, rather than purchase the land. The representative also stated the Kansas Farm Bureau opposes the use of tax and fee revenues for the acquisition of any private land.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the KDWPT.