

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM AND PARKS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becky Hutchins at 3:30 p.m. on February 9, 2004 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
Lura Attig, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Cecil Walker, Independent Living Specialist/Independent Living Counselor
Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See Attached List.

HB 2573 - Wildlife and parks, disability assistance permit, fishing, removing license requirement for designated assistant.

Proponents:

Cecil Walker, El Dorado, Independent Living Specialist/Independent Living Counselor, Co-chair of the Board of Directors of Wheatland Fishing Has No Boundaries (Attachment 1). Mr. Walker, an avid hunter and fisherman, supports HB 2573 as it applies to fishing. Mr. Walker anticipates that many more disabled people will be able to enjoy fishing if they can have an attendant and that attendant is not required to pay for a license. Finding volunteers to assist would be easier.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel Department of Wildlife and Parks (Attachment 2). The Department supports the provisions of HB 2573. The Department (KDWP) would like to note however, that this change in statute will make some law enforcement issues difficult as well as reduce the fiscal intake of the Department. The annual estimated number of fishing disability permit holders overall is minimal. There are approximately 25 disabled assistance permits issued annually. In a hunting situation the disabled person must have the deer permit and the assistance person must have a hunting license.

Questions for proponents:

Rep. Merrick asked Mr. Walker why is he opposed to the bill. Mr. Walker is not opposed to the bill, he is confused as to the meaning of the words "proponent and opponent" and is confusing fishing with hunting. The word "opposed" in his testimony is a typo. Hunting is not, at this time, included in this bill.

Rep. Thull asked Chris Tymeson if this bill addresses hunting licenses and would it be difficult to add hunting disability assistance to this bill?

Chris Tymeson suggests that hunting would be more difficult because there are currently 250 hunt-from-motor-vehicle permit holders. It is not known if they would translate into disability permits.

Rep. Osborne, would the Department (KDWP) be against this bill if hunting were added? Would the Department address that issue?

Chairperson Hutchins requested the fiscal impact of adding hunting from KDWP.

Rep. Merrick recommends an amendment to this bill to add hunting when it is worked.

Opponents: none

Written: none

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM AND PARKS COMMITTEE at 3:30 p.m. on February 9, 2004 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

HB 2653 - Wildlife and parks, authority to enter into interstate wildlife violator compact and commercialization of wildlife.

Proponents:

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel Department of Wildlife and Parks (Attachment 3). The Department supports this bill. This compact began in 1989, with the states of Nevada, Colorado and Oregon. Currently, there are 18 states in the compact. A reciprocal agreement between the member states causes the violator's record to follow from one state to the others. The Department (KDWP) is a part of The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies which is made up of all 50 states. The International Association has endorsed the compact.

The second portion of the bill deals with an update in the illegal commercialization statutes, special publication number 30. Our statute references special publication number 24.

Opponents: none

Written: none

No Committee questions.

Hearing closed.

The minutes From Jan. 28 and Feb. 2 were distributed. Rep. Morrison pointed out that Limon (as in Limon, Colorado) was spelled incorrectly. Rep. Flaharty made a motion the minutes be approved, with the necessary correction made. Rep. Long seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with one amendment.

The next meeting of the committee is February 11, 2004.

Chairperson Hutchins adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.