

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 27, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Kerschen - Excused

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

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

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the meeting with introduction of Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, to give a bill briefing on **HB 2457**.

Mr. Yoza explained the purpose of **HB 2457** is to permit nonresident youth hunters to hunt without a license just as resident youth hunters are permitted to, and to permit hunting of coyotes without a license.

Hearing on HB 2457:

OPPONENT:

At the conclusion of the bill description, Chairman Powell introduced Christopher J. Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (Department), who spoke as an opponent on **HB 2457** (Attachment 1). Mr. Tymeson explained that the bill proposes to add to the list of exemptions for needing a hunting license, stating the Department is a fee funded agency and depends on license and permit sales to maintain the recreation and wildlife management programs it administers. The proposed exemption would result in a loss of \$94,000 in license sales revenue as well as approximately \$27,000 in federal aid.

Additionally, Mr. Tymeson stated the second major issue with the bill concerns law enforcement. The bill adds nonresidents to the list of persons who don't need a hunting license for prairie dogs, gophers and moles and goes significantly further to include coyotes for both residents and nonresidents. This could provide a convenient excuse to be in the field with a high-power rifle during the deer season without a license or permit.

The hearing was closed on **HB 2457**.

Chairman Powell opened the hearing on **HB 2459**.

OPPONENT:

Christopher J. Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, spoke as an opponent on **HB 2459** (Attachment 2), stating the bill also proposes to add to the list of exemptions for needing a hunting license, and the Department is a fee-funded agency, depending on license and permit fees to maintain the recreation and wildlife management programs it administers. Mr. Tymeson further stated there is also the issue of misidentification of rattlesnakes in Kansas with unregulated harvest. Lastly, Mr. Tymeson contends nothing currently precludes individuals from protecting themselves or their property from a rattlesnake.

The hearing was closed on **HB 2459**.



CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on January 27, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

Chairman Powell stated that since these bills were non-controversial, he appointed a subcommittee with Representative Schroeder as Chairman, along with Representatives Svaty and Prescott to review **HB 2457**, **HB 2458** and **HB 2459**.

Bill introductions:

Representative Mitch Holmes introduced a conceptual bill concerning mountain lions. By general consensus of the Committee, the bill was introduced.

Chairman Powell introduced a bill concerning water rights relating to the abandonment and termination; creating a water conservation exemption. By general consensus of the Committee, the bill was introduced.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.