

Approved: February 24, 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 February 8, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Hayzlett - Excused
Representative Johnson - Excused
Representative Palmer - 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:

Representative Mitch Holmes
Christopher Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Wildlife and Parks

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Powell opened the meeting with introduction of Representative Schroeder, who gave a Subcommittee Meeting report on **HB 2457** - Exempting nonresidents under 16 from hunting license requirements, **HB 2458** - Requiring archery permit holders to take a doe before a buck, and **HB 2459** - Abolishing permit requirements and harvest limits for prairie rattlesnakes. Other Subcommittee members were Representatives Prescott and Svaty. Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, distributed a proposed balloon amendment for **HB 2458** (Attachment 1).

Representative Schroeder explained that since nonresidents who come into the state to hunt are spending a sizeable amount of money so this would not be a deterrent as far as getting a hunting license; therefore, the Subcommittee recommended no further action be taken on **HB 2457** at this time. Representative Schroeder commented on **HB 2458**, stating that if someone sees a buck, they would not wait to shoot the buck if they had not already shot a doe. Further, there were questions regarding check stations that would have to be monitored by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), which would be expensive for the KDWP to maintain. There was also a question of whether crossbows could be added to lessen the deer population but decided to not add this item to the bill but instead wait until the bill comes back to the committee at which time the committee will have the ability to work the bill further if Chairman Powell chooses to do so. The Subcommittee recommended no further action be taken on **HB 2458** at this time. Representative Schroeder commented on **HB 2459**, explaining that the last commercial hunting of rattlesnakes was in 2007, and that anyone can protect themselves on their property by killing rattlesnakes; however, if the rattlesnake is killed on someone else's property, it is unlawful to keep the rattles. The Subcommittee recommended no further action be taken on **HB 2459** at this time.

At the conclusion of the Subcommittee report, the hearing was opened on **HB 2639** - Allowing mountain lions and wolves to be hunted without a hunting license.

Hearing on HB 2639:

PROPONENT:

Representative Mitch Holmes presented testimony in favor of **HB 2639** (Attachment 2), stating the bill removes any restrictions and legal ramifications for killing a wolf or cougar (also known as a mountain lion), as well as removes the restriction to be in possession of a carcass, and would put the wolf and cougar in the same category as coyotes. Representative Holmes further commented that it does not require the KDWP to spend any money tracking or controlling the wolf or cougar population. Representative Holmes cited several examples in his testimony of friends and neighbors who have seen the cougars and also have had farm animals

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 3:30 p.m. on February 8, 2010, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

killed by them.

Proponent Written Testimony:

Kurt Fairchild (Attachment 3)

Mary Fatzer (Attachment 4)

Dr. Robert Vasey (Attachment 5)

OPPONENT:

Christopher Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, presented testimony in opposition of **HB 2639** (Attachment 6), explaining the bill seeks to amend two statutes related to hunting licenses for mountain lions and wolves. Mr. Tymeson further maintains that the bill proposes to add to the list of exemptions for needing a hunting license and as the KDWP is a fee funded agency, it depends on license and permit sales to maintain the recreation and wildlife management programs it administers, and that there would need to be some very significant drafting issues with the bill that should be corrected if the bill sees further action.

After questions were asked by members of the Committee, the hearing was closed on **HB 2639**.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.