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LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** The House Standing Committee on Agriculture

**From:** The Office of Revisor of Statutes

**Date:** February 19, 2020

**Re:** HB 2621

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HB 2621 would authorize the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism to purchase a portion of land in Kingman county, Kansas. For any proposed purchase of a tract or tracts of land greater than 160 acres, K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-833 requires the secretary to receive approval through an act of the legislature or by approval from the state finance council when the legislature is not in session.

Subsection (a) would authorize the secretary to purchase the land in Kingman county and would include a legal description of the land. Such purchase would be subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-833, which, among other things requires the secretary to:

- (1) Certify that the land proposed to be purchased complies with the Kansas noxious weed law and has consulted with the county weed supervisor to develop a written plan for controlling and managing noxious weeds on the land;
- (2) Agree to make payment in lieu of taxes comparable to the ad valorem tax payments of surrounding lands for any land purchased that is exempt from payment of ad valorem taxes; and
- (3) Develop a management plan for the property to be purchased.

Subsection (b) would exempt the purchase from the K.S.A. 75-3739's competitive bid procedures and purchasing authority requirements.

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Additionally, subsection (c) would state that in the event the secretary determines that the legal description of the parcel described in the bill is incorrect, the secretary may purchase the property utilizing the correct legal description.

HB 2621 would become effective upon publication in the Kansas register.

**32-833. Authority to purchase land; conditions and limitations.** (a) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of K.S.A. 32-807(f), and amendments thereto, or any other provisions of law to the contrary, the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism shall not purchase any land unless:

(A) The secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism has certified that the land proposed to be purchased is in compliance with the provisions of article 13 of chapter 2 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, concerning control and management of noxious weeds after consultation with the county weed supervisor and has developed a written plan for controlling and managing noxious weeds on the land to be purchased;

(B) the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism shall agree to make payment of moneys in lieu of taxes comparable to the ad valorem tax payments of surrounding lands for any land purchased which is exempt from the payment of ad valorem taxes under the laws of the state of Kansas; and

(C) the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism has developed a management plan for the property proposed to be purchased.

(2) In addition to the requirements prescribed by this section and otherwise by law, any proposed purchase of a tract or tracts of land which are greater than 160 acres in the aggregate shall be subject to approval by act of the legislature, either as a provision in an appropriation act pertaining to the specific property to be purchased or by any other act of the legislature that approves the acquisition of the specific property proposed to be purchased, or by approval by the state finance council acting on this matter which is hereby characterized as a matter of legislative delegation and subject to the guidelines prescribed in K.S.A. 75-3711c(c), and amendments thereto.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any purchase of land by the secretary, which is less than 640 acres in the aggregate and owned by a private individual, if the purchase price is an amount less than such land's appraised valuation.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of K.S.A. 32-807(f), and amendments thereto, or any other provisions of law to the contrary, the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism shall adopt guidelines and procedures prescribing public notice requirements that the secretary shall comply with before the selling of any land which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(A) A written notice shall be posted in a conspicuous location on such land stating the time and date of the sale, or the date after which the land will be offered for sale, and a name and telephone number of a person who may be contacted concerning the sale of such land;

(B) the secretary shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county the land is located once a week for three consecutive weeks, the secretary's intent to sell the land which shall include a legal description of the land to be sold, the time and date of the sale or the date after which the land will be offered for sale, the general terms and conditions of such sale, and a name and telephone number of a person who may be contacted concerning the sale of such land; and

(C) the secretary shall publish in the Kansas register public notice of the secretary's intent to sell the land which shall include a legal description of the land to be sold, the time and date of the sale or the date after which the land will be offered for sale, the place of the sale, the general terms and conditions of such sale, and a name and telephone number of a person who may be contacted concerning the sale of such land.

(2) The secretary shall have the land appraised by three disinterested persons. In no case shall such land be sold for less than the average of its appraised value as determined by such disinterested persons.

(3) The secretary shall list such land with a real estate agent who is licensed by the Kansas real estate commission as a salesperson under the real estate brokers' and salespersons' license act, and who shall publicly advertise that such land is for sale.

(4) Prior to closing the transaction on a contract for the sale of such land, the secretary shall cause a survey to be conducted by a licensed land surveyor. Such survey shall establish the precise legal description of such land and shall be a condition precedent to the final closing on such sale.

(c) Any disposition of land by the secretary shall be in the best interest of the state.

(d) The provisions of paragraph [subsection] (a)(2) shall not apply to lands of less than 640 acres purchased with natural resource damage and restoration funds in the southeast Kansas counties of Cherokee, Crawford, Labette and Neosho.