

**Testimony on HB 2392 on Free Lifetime Licenses for Certain Members
Of the Kansas National Guard
To
The House Committee on Agriculture
By Brad Loveless
Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism**

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HB 2392 would provide free lifetime hunting, fishing and furharvesting licenses to certain members of the Kansas National Guard. **The Department opposes the provisions contained in the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective upon publication in the statute book.

While the Department strongly supports all currently serving members and veterans of our nation's various military branches, the bill contains no provisions to replace lost funding the Department would incur as a result of providing the free privileges.

Currently, the Department has a program in place to provide free hunting and fishing licenses, as well as park permits, to members of the Kansas National Guard. Fees for the licenses and permits issued are reimbursed by an appropriation of state general funds on a first-come, first-served basis. While the Department generally supports free issuances to members of the military, the costs of that appreciation should be supported by all members of society in the form of appropriated general fund dollars, not borne solely by hunters and anglers. In addition, the fiscal impact of offering free lifetime fishing, hunting and furharvesting licenses is not just the initial lost revenue in direct dollars, but also the continued loss of federal aid dollars, which depend on the number of licenses sold in a given year. Increasing user bases without adequate funding to support programs is not sound public policy.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to testify and requests the committee not pass out the bill.