

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KEN CORBET
54TH DISTRICT

March 7, 2022

Chairman Kerschen and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

As you can see in my testimony, Kansas Wildlife and Parks licenses have declined up to 50% over the last fifteen years.

Kansas is a rural state and many of us were raised in families where hunting and fishing was a part of growing up. Parents, grandparents, family, and friends would gather annually for the opening day of pheasant and duck/geese season, a trout release, camping trips along a river or other outdoor experiences where fishing and hunting opportunities were plentiful. This youth lifetime license will get more kids outdoors and hopefully make a lifetime of smiles and outdoor memories.

The numbers of youth continuing these activities is not increasing here or around the country. Proving an incentive for encouraging the next generation of hunters and fishermen and women by providing an opportunity to purchase a lifetime hunting and fishing license for a newborn up to five years of age will most certainly pay dividends for the recipient, the purchaser, and the State of Kansas down the road.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Corbet".



HB 2456

Will permit someone to purchase a Lifetime Combo Hunt and Fishing License for any Kansas Child 5 years and younger who is a resident of Kansas for \$ 300.00 .

Please call your Representative and Senator and tell them to get this passed this session

Thanks Ken Corbet
785-224-0357

Help make this a Great Christmas Gift Next Christmas



To: Members of the Kansas Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus

Re: HB 2456: Establishing the Kansas kids lifetime combination hunting and fishing license

Position: Support as Amended

Date: February 28, 2021

Honorable Members of the Kansas Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus:

The undersigned write to express support for the amendments made to House Bill 2456 (HB 2456) – a bill that would authorize the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) to create a combination lifetime hunting and angling license for children ages five and younger – and we applaud Representative Corbet for bringing it forward. Likewise, we commend members of the Kansas Legislature for their willingness to work with KDWP to ensure that this type of legislation does not pose any unintended funding consequences that may impair the agency’s ability perform its duties, as well as their desire to enact legislation intended to recruit the next generation of sportsmen and women.

Hunting and angling participation in the United States has generally declined since its peak in the 1980’s. While there have been many causes cited for this decline, the downward trend in participation rates poses a threat not only to our heritage as sportsmen and women, a heritage that is particularly storied in Kansas, but to the future of conservation. Through the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF), a “user pays – public benefits” framework which accounts for nearly 100% of KDWP’s Fish and Wildlife Programs, sportsmen-generated dollars provide the primary source of funding for critical conservation efforts across the Sunflower State. This ASCF is reliant on revenue from sporting licenses (i.e., hunting and angling licenses), and excise tax revenue from both the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs. Recognizing the threat that declining participation poses to our outdoor heritage and the funding that supports the important conservation work performed by KDWP, it is clear that all opportunities to spur renewed interest in participation should be evaluated. HB 2456 seeks to present one such opportunity by authorizing KDWP to offer a relatively affordable lifetime license for youth ages five and younger. This, in turn, could provide adults with an opportunity to invest in the next generation of sportsmen and women.

While providing this affordable option for adults who wish to make this investment is a meritorious concept, we appreciate the steps that have been taken to amend HB 2456 to ensure that unintended negative economic consequences are avoided. First and foremost, we highlight

the amended price at \$300 as a positive step to ensure that lifetime licenses such as these do not result in a significant reduction in license revenue for KDWP. Recognizing that the ASCF is the sole source of revenue needed to support the agency's critical conservation efforts, the ASCF must be preserved by ensuring that the price of this and all licenses permit the agency to accomplish its mission. To achieve this, we support the amended price at \$300 as well as the ability of the KDWP to increase the price, if needed in the future, to protect the ASCF. Likewise, we commend the inclusion of a 10-year sunset provision that will allow the success of this effort to be evaluated and reassessed in the future.

Second, and arguably more importantly from a hunter and angler recruitment and retention perspective, we must be sure that this consideration for the future of our time-honored outdoor traditions does not become a "buy it and forget it" investment. This means that we need mentors in place and adequate access opportunities to ensure that those who receive these licenses are then introduced to hunting and angling when they reach the appropriate age. Research continues to show that, without mentors in place to teach beginning sportsmen and women or suitable places for them to hunt and fish, our efforts to recruit these potential future hunters and anglers are doomed for future failure. KDWP and many other state fish and wildlife agencies are already investing considerable resources in hunter and angler recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts (collectively referred to as R3), and their knowledge and expertise is critical to ensure that efforts such as this are supported by the best available research on the topic.

With these thoughts in mind, we again applaud the concept proposed by HB 2456 and willingness of the bill's author and co-sponsors to work closely with KDWP to ensure that this and all efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate sportsmen and women are supported by the best available research in these areas while protecting the critical funding streams that form the pillars of the ASCF. Further, we encourage the Caucus to work with KDWP and members of the sportsmen's community to support R3 efforts by serving as mentors to ensure that our time-honored traditions are shared for generations to come.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Delta Waterfowl
National Deer Association
National Rifle Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
Safari Club International

Kansas: Lifetime Children's Hunting and Fishing License Bill Passed out of the House



Last week, the Kansas House passed pro-hunting legislation, House Bill 2456, sending the measure to the Senate for further consideration.

[House Bill 2456](#) establishes the Kansas kids lifetime combination Hunting and Fishing License. As amended in the House, such a license would be issued to children who are five-years-old or younger, and the price of a license wouldn't exceed \$300. This legislation will provide Kansas youth the ability to get in the field and experience one of America's oldest traditions earlier and longer. Hunters are the most important part of environmental conservation efforts. HB 2456 will go a long way towards helping to bolster the ranks of those who appreciate this country's rich hunting heritage.

Stay-tuned to NRA-ILA Alerts for more information and updates on this and other

Hunting licenses sold

Year	Adults	Youth*	Total	Percent Youth	Year	Adults	Youth*	Total	Percent Youth
2006	101,693	10,719	112,412	9.54%	2006	221,237	18,067	239,304	7.55%
2007	99,550	10,675	110,225	9.68%	2007	221,416	18,047	239,463	7.54%
2008	98,806	10,362	109,168	9.49%	2008	225,538	18,044	243,582	7.41%
2009	102,301	10,665	112,966	9.44%	2009	248,872	20,342	269,214	7.56%
2010	101,433	10,337	111,770	9.25%	2010	238,815	19,665	258,480	7.61%
2011	98,531	10,375	108,906	9.53%	2011	229,984	19,395	249,379	7.78%
2012	95,413	9,250	104,663	8.84%	2012	241,214	19,914	261,128	7.63%
2013	108,432	8,748	117,180	7.47%	2013	249,372	19,818	269,190	7.36%
2014	100,595	8,484	109,079	7.78%	2014	249,066	20,072	269,138	7.46%
2015	100,457	7,610	108,067	7.04%	2015	246,663	15,990	262,653	6.09%
2016	97,349	6,926	104,275	6.64%	2016	186,729	11,480	198,209	5.79%
2017	90,403	6,431	96,834	6.64%	2017	172,153	10,478	182,631	5.74%
2018	88,490	5,993	94,483	6.34%	2018	165,864	9,664	175,528	5.51%
2019	74,036	5,226	79,262	6.59%	2019	144,498	9,092	153,590	5.92%
2020	77,333	5,841	83,174	7.02%	2020	194,010	14,659	208,669	7.03%
2021	72,624	5,280	77,904	6.78%	2021	158,516	10,001	168,517	5.93%

*Age 20 and Under

Hunting

30.6% decrease in total licenses sold since 2006

50.7% decrease in youth licenses sold since 2006

*Age 20 and Under

Fishing

29.5% decrease in total licenses sold since 2006

44.6% decrease in total licenses sold since 2006

28.6% decrease in adult licenses sold since 2006

28.3% decrease in total licenses sold since 2006

Bill Brief for: HB 2456

Bill Brief Author: Rep. Newland

Date Passed Committee: 1/27/22

Sponsored by: Representative Corbet, Representative Awerkamp, Representative Barker, Representative Croft, Representative Ellis, Representative Highland, Representative Houser, Representative Mason, Representative Seiwert, Representative Tarwater

Senate Final Action: N/A

Reporting Committee: House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

A Bill Concerning: Establishing the Kansas kids lifetime combination hunting and fishing license.

What Bill Does: The bill would authorize the lifetime combination license for any child who is five years of age or younger and a Kansas resident upon payment of a license fee that shall not exceed \$200. The license fee could be paid on behalf of the child.

Political Reality/Implications: Kansas is a rural state and many of us were raised in families where hunting and fishing was a part of growing up. Parents, grandparents, family, and friends would gather annually for the opening day of pheasant and duck/geese season, a trout release, camping trips along a river or other outdoor experiences where fishing and hunting opportunities were plentiful. This youth lifetime license will get more kids outdoors and hopefully make a lifetime of smiles and outdoor memories.

The numbers of youth continuing these activities is not increasing here or around the country. Proving an incentive for encouraging the next generation of hunters and fishermen and women by providing an opportunity to purchase a lifetime hunting and fishing license for a newborn up to five years of age will most

certainly pay dividends for the recipient, the purchaser, and the State of Kansas down the road.

Committee Amendments: The committee amended the bill to require an annual report from the KDWP Secretary to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Committee on the number of such Kansas kids' lifetime combination hunting and fishing licenses issued by KDWP.

Possible Floor Amendments: Rep. Carpenter will have an amendment that i) increases the license fee from \$200.00 to \$300.00; ii) allows the wildlife commission to increase the license up to \$400.00 after five years, but does not require such an increase; and iii) sunsets the kids' lifetime license provisions contain in the bill after 10 years.

Proponents:

Opponents:

Neutral: KDWP -- after the Carpenter amendment is added.

Fiscal Note: None -- if the Carpenter amendment is added.

Who will carry the bill: Rep. Corbet

Is this bill ready to run on the floor? Yes