

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2456**

As Agreed to March 30, 2022

Brief*

HB 2456 would require the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks (Secretary) to issue a Kansas kids lifetime combination hunting and fishing license (kids license).

The bill would make available the kids 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 \$300; and
- Any child who is six or seven years of age and a Kansas resident upon payment of a license fee that shall not exceed \$500.

The license fee could be paid on behalf of the child.

The bill also would require the Secretary to submit an annual report to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on the number of kids licenses issued.

The authority to issue the kids licenses would expire on July 1, 2032.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the House Committee of the Whole version of the bill, with the following changes to:

- Require the Secretary to issue kids licenses;
- Require the Secretary to issue a kids license to any child who is six or seven years of age and a Kansas resident upon a payment of a license fee that would not exceed \$500;
- Remove the ability to increase the license fee on and after July 1, 2027;

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kIRD>

- Remove the authority for the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations related to provisions of the bill; and
- Require the annual report on the number of lifetime combination licenses issues to be submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Background

The bill was prefiled for introduction on November 12, 2021, by Representative Corbet.

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

In the House Committee hearing, **opponent** testimony was provided by the Secretary, who stated the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) would lose federal aid, as the proposed \$200 license fee does not meet the federal minimum annual revenue requirements. The Secretary also stated that cost is not the only barrier to attracting youth to hunting and fishing, as lack of access and social support also deter youth from participating in outdoor opportunities. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to require the Secretary to submit an annual report to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget on the number of lifetime combination licenses issued. [*Note*: The amendment was retained by the Conference Committee.]

House Committee of the Whole

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to:

- Increase the license fee from \$200 to \$300 [*Note*: The amendment was retained by the Conference Committee];
- Allow the license fee to be increased up to \$400 after 5 years with approval of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission [*Note*: The amendment was not retained by the Conference Committee]; and
- Add a sunset of 10 years on the authority to issue the licenses. [*Note*: The amendment was retained by the Conference Committee.]

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Corbet, who provided information showing that the number of hunting and fishing licenses for youth, ages 20 and under, have declined over the last 15 years. He stated the new license would provide an incentive for encouraging the next generation of hunters and anglers. Representatives Blex and Will Carpenter also provided proponent testimony.

The Secretary provided neutral testimony on the bill, stating that with the amendments made by the House Committee of the Whole that increased the license cost from \$200 to \$300, the KDWP will be able to claim federal funds. The Secretary also requested an amendment to the bill and stated the bill removes a cost barrier to attract more youth to hunt and fish, but it does not address the issue of access to hunting and fishing. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to:

- Establish January 1, 2023, as the date on and after which a Kansas kids lifetime combination hunting and fishing license may be issued; [*Note*: The amendment was not retained by the Conference Committee.]
- Authorize the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the bill; and [*Note*: The amendment was not retained by the Conference Committee.]
- Change the effective date of the bill to upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [*Note*: The amendment was not retained by the Conference Committee.]

Senate Committee of the Whole

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to establish two age ranges for the license, with different accompanying fees depending on the age of the child. [*Note*: The amendment was retained in part by the Conference Committee.]

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, KDWP indicates enactment of the bill would result in a loss of federal funding of at least \$12,300 per year. The agency states that because the number of licenses that would be sold cannot be estimated, the exact fiscal effect cannot be determined.

An updated fiscal note reflecting the amendments to the bill was not immediately available. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The Governor's FY 2023 Budget Report*.

Wildlife and parks; licenses; Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks; Secretary of Wildlife and Parks

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