

Additional Proponent Testimony on HB2039

Here on page 165 is the Department of Wildlife and Parks budget narrative per the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report dated January 2023 and posted online:

FY2024_GBR-Vol1-01.12.2023
PDF Document - 8.4 MB

The Governor's recommendation totals **\$100.5 million from all funding sources**, including \$3.7 million from the Economic Development Initiatives Fund and \$224,457 from the State Water Plan Fund, for FY 2023. The Governor recommends \$300,000 from the Parks Fee Fund to finance additional body-worn cameras and increased operational costs. For FY 2024, the Governor recommends \$112.2 million from all funding sources, including \$3.1 million from the State General Fund, \$4.2 million from the Economic Development Initiatives Fund and \$224,457 from the State Water Plan Fund.

I researched the fee revenue amounts for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. In a document dated in November 4, 2021, the following data appears:

The Department projected **\$32 million** in fee revenue from the sale of 200,000 fishing licenses and 130,000 hunting licenses for FY2023. Source url: <http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Publications/PerformanceBasedBudgeting/2022/Wildlife&Parks.pdf>. [document page number 37]

Compare this to the recent fiscal note for HB2039 which projects a loss of **~\$70 thousand** in fee revenue if the provisions of HB2039, as filed, become law.

The bill as filed would eliminate license fees for 28 thousand veterans. If the bill is amended to include all 47 thousand service-connected disabled veterans rated 0% to 100% residing in Kansas as defined in 38 CFR Part 3, there would be a proportional increase in the amount of fee revenue not collected. Doing the math, amending the bill to include all 47 thousand service connected disabled veterans would result in a projected revenue loss of **~\$118 thousand**.

A revenue loss of \$118 thousand compared to the projected Wildlife Fee Fund revenue projection of \$32 million is less than four tenths of one per cent.

If HB2039 passes, and is amended to include all 47 thousand service-connected disabled veterans, the Department of Wildlife and Parks would stand to collect more than 99.6% of its Wildlife Fee Fund revenue projection.

There is also the issue of the loss of ~\$28 thousand in federal funds per year. Using the same proportional math to project this loss if the bill is amended from coverage of 28 thousand veterans to all 47 thousand veterans the federal fund loss projects to ~\$47 thousand per year.

I submit for your consideration that the state of **Kansas can forego a small fraction of Wildlife Fee Fund revenue** to provide a financial and recreational benefit to service-connected disabled veterans. The loss of \$118 thousand (\$165 thousand inclusive of federal funds) in revenue is quite small compared to the \$100 million agency budget requested from all sources for 2023 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kelly

State Legislative Chair
Kansas Council of Chapters