

February 20, 2015

The Honorable Sharon Schwartz, Chairperson
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Statehouse, Room 149-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Schwartz:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2341 by House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2341 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law gives the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism the option to offer seized wildlife that has been taken illegally to the landowner or tenant on whose property the wildlife was taken. The wildlife must be transferred within two years of adjudication of the violation. HB 2341 would amend the law to require the Department to offer the seized wildlife to the landowner or tenant and would remove the time limit. Antlers, antler sheds, and horns seized by the Department after January 1, 2005, and still in the Department's control as of January 1, 2015, must be returned if the landowner or tenant requests them.

Currently, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism returns some wildlife items to landowners and tenants. The Department expects passage of HB 2341 to cause additional time to be spent by officers to make contact with landowners and tenants to determine if they would like the seized items returned and to make arrangements for any returns. In the past, the agency has sold antlers at public auction. The annual revenue over the past four years has varied from a low of \$335 in 2011 to a high of \$6,295 in 2014. The average annual revenue is \$2,681. If the number of seized items returned to landowners and tenants increases, the agency expects the annual revenue from antlers to decrease. The agency is not able, however, to estimate what changes to expenditures or revenues may be associated with passage of HB 2341. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2341 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Chris Tymeson, Wildlife, Parks & Tourism