



Kansas' Association for Professional Innkeepers

March 16, 2017

Room 172-N

Hearing on Senate Bill No. 25

To the Honorable Representative Les Mason
House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development
Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

I am Lynda M. Fort, Executive Director of The Kansas Bed and Breakfast Association, representing 65 member Inns and all lodging facilities concerned with the use and future development of lodging facilities on the State Park properties. Lodging facilities adjacent to these 26 parks, competing for business are in some cases, small family business who pay property taxes, collect transient tax and sales tax for the State of Kansas, purchase full coverage insurance for their guests, are licensed by the State of Kansas, and are inspected by the Health and Environment Division of the State Agricultural Department and inspected by the State Fire Marshall's office. Most also have general pest control services, belong and support CVB or Chamber of Commerce, and their regional tourism councils.

All of these expenses are part of bringing guests to the area for a safe and comfortable experience with a built in host that engages them in visiting the area attractions, purchasing gas, meals, and if necessary our local health facilities in time of emergency.

The playing field is not level. I serve on the Governor's Council for Tourism and fully understand the desire of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to acquire enough funding to move that department, develop our outdoor experiences and sustain with fees, licensing, and other income to be close to self-sustaining that department but it will be at a cost to the small business owners.

Thank You

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SENATE BILL No. 25

By Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

1-12

1 AN ACT concerning wildlife, parks and tourism; relating to cabins; fees;
2 amending K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-999 and repealing the existing section.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-999 is hereby amended to read as
6 follows: 32-999. (a) The secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism is
7 authorized, ~~with the approval of the Kansas wildlife, parks and tourism~~
8 ~~commission~~, to establish fees for:

9 (1) ~~The public use of cabins owned or operated by the department;~~
10 *and*

11 (2) *camping permits at state parks*.

12 ~~At a public meeting, The secretary, with consideration by the~~
13 ~~commission~~, shall set an amount for each fee that encourages use of ~~such~~
14 cabins ~~{and camp sites}~~ and that enables the department to maintain and
15 operate such cabins ~~{and camp sites}~~.

16 (b) ~~Such fees as described in subsection (a) shall not exceed:~~

17 (1) ~~A maximum of \$250 per night;~~

18 (2) ~~a maximum of \$1,500 per week; and~~

19 (3) ~~a maximum of \$5,000 per month.~~

20 (e) ~~Fees for the use of cabins owned and operated by the Kansas~~
21 department of wildlife, parks and tourism ~~{and camping permits at state~~
22 ~~parks}~~ shall be exempt from the provisions of K.S.A. 77-415 through 77-
23 437, and amendments thereto.

24 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-999 is hereby repealed.

25 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
26 publication in the statute book.