

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM AND PARKS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becky Hutchins at 3:30 p.m. on February 23, 2004 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Broderick Henderson- excused
Representative Clark Shultz- excused
Representative Ed O'Malley- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Mary Torrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Lura Attig, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

None

Others attending:

See Attached List.

The minutes from February 9, 2004 and February 11, 2004 were submitted to the committee for review.

Chairperson Hutchins requested the subcommittee on **HB 2668**, made their report to the committee.

Representative Merrick, the chair of the subcommittee gave this report: The subcommittee on **HB 2668** met on two occasions along with the Department of Wildlife and Parks. It was decided that KDWP will go to their Commission meeting in March or April and recommend that there be a subunit designated in management units 7 and 8 and that there be a special season for taking deer in that subunit for seven days in January. In case that does not happen, Representative Merrick recommends a conceptual amendment to **HB 2668** adding that to which the subcommittee and KDWP have agreed.

Committee questions followed.

Chairperson Hutchins asked Representative Merrick if he had the amendment drawn up and he replied, no it is conceptual. If these stipulations are not met at the meeting in March or April, we would have something on which to rely.

Representative Osborne asked, what are the boundaries and does KDWP agree? Representative Merrick replied, Representatives Schwartz and Aurand's areas because those areas are where the largest concentration of deer related accidents occur. KDWP does agree but they still need the approval of their Commission.

Representative Flaharty asked, if KDWP does not take action at the March meeting, will we do an amendment? Representative Osborne replied, hopefully, we will already have this in conference so we can work on it.

Chairperson Hutchins, you would recommend this bill passed out favorably as amended with those stipulations? It would be alive, we could let it die in conference if we don't need to move ahead.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks addressed Representative Merrick. You are going to pass this bill as amended, striking the original language and replacing it with the new language? Representative Merrick replied, that is correct.

Representative Osborne asked is that one animal per day during the special season? Chris Tymeson replied, that is not what we planned. We still must work out the regulation to present to the Wildlife and Parks Commission. It would be an extended season, for seven days, in a special unit in the north-central part of the state.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM AND PARKS COMMITTEE at 3:30 p.m. on February 23, 2004 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Representative Merrick made a motion to adopt an amendment to **HB 2668**. Amending the bill to require the Secretary of Wildlife and Parks to establish a subunit within management units 7 and 8 and provide for a special season for taking deer in that subunit for seven days in January. The provisions of this bill would expire on June 30, 2006. Motion seconded by Representative Scoggins-Waite, motion carried.

Representative Merrick made a motion to pass **HB 2668** as amended, favorable for passage. Motion seconded by Representative Thull. Motion carried.

Committee deliberation on **HB 2653**- interstate wildlife violator compact and commercialization of wildlife.

Chairperson Hutchins asked Hank Avila, Research Staff to explain the bill. The proposal came from KDWP and would allow Kansas to participate in the compact. It would also designate mussels as wildlife under the same valuation as fish. It would take effect July 1, 2004.

Representative Ruff made a motion that the committee pass this bill out favorably, seconded by Representative Novascone. Motion carried.

Committee discussion followed.

Chairperson Hutchins brings the attention of the committee members to the \$15,000 fiscal note and notes the program would be financed within the amounts included in the FY 2005 Governor's Budget Report. What if funding is not there in the final version of the budget? Chris Tymeson replied, it is primarily employee time and those are also estimates based on a hearing which may not happen. It would include legal representation for the Department at that hearing and employee time to track violations that come in from other states.

Representative Hayzlett moved that the Committee Minutes from February 9 and February 11 be adopted, Representative Novascone seconded. Minutes approved without amendment.

Wednesday, March 3 - Thomas Etheredge from Prairie Rose Chuckwagon will make a presentation before this committee.

Adjourned at 4:00 P.M.