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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Transportation
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 10, 2022
Subject: Bill Brief – HB 2597

HB 2597 would create four new distinctive license plates for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Section 1 of HB 2597 provides four new distinctive license plates that are intended to depict and promote: 1) state parks, 2) hunting, 3) fishing, and 4) nongame wildlife. Any owner of a vehicle upon proper registration and payment of the regular license fees may apply for one of these Wildlife and Parks license plates. The applicant for a license plate shall also pay the associated Wildlife and Parks license plate royalty payment set between \$40 and \$100 to the county treasurer upon registration. The royalty payment is an annual fee. Each Wildlife and Parks license plate are subject to the requirements of K.S.A. 8-1,141.

The disposition of the royalty payments made to county treasurers will depend on the type of Wildlife and Parks license plate that the vehicle owner applies for. For a state parks license plate, the entire royalty payment shall be credited to the parks fee fund created by K.S.A. 32-991. For a hunting, fishing, or nongame wildlife license plate, the royalty payment will be deposited as follows: 1) an amount equal to the cost of an annual park and recreation motor vehicle permit established in K.S.A. 8-341 shall be credited to the parks fee fund, and 2) the balance remaining after will be credited to the wildlife fee fund created by K.S.A. 32-990.

Section 2 amends K.S.A. 32-901 to provide that a motor vehicle issued a license plate under section 1 shall constitute a permit allowing the driver of the vehicle the rights and obligations to enter a state park as if the driver were an annual permit holder for a valid parks and recreation motor vehicle permit. In addition, the motor vehicle must have a current, unexpired registration and display the Wildlife and Parks license plate on the vehicle.