

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 272

As Amended by Senate Committee on Natural
Resources

Brief*

SB 272 would increase a limitation on controlled shooting areas (CSAs) acreage. Currently, the law directs the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to limit CSAs so that the total acreage licensed as CSAs in a county does not exceed 3 percent of the county's total acreage. The bill would increase this limitation to 5 percent.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources upon request of Flint Oak, LLC, which is a hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting venue in Elk County, Kansas.

At the Senate Committee hearing on the bill, a representative of Flint Oak, LLC, provided proponent testimony. The representative stated that in 2013, Flint Oak encompassed a total land mass of 4,620 acres and was able to purchase an additional 1,040 acres near its current land holdings, but due to the 3 percent limitation on total county CSA acreage, Flint Oak could not license all of its additional land as a CSA. The representative stated Flint Oak is not the only CSA in Elk County, as there are other public and private licensees in the county.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) provided neutral testimony on the bill, stating there

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

are both positive and negative aspects to the bill. A cap on acreage could prevent new economic development within a given county, but there could be transmission of diseases from pen-raised birds to wild populations, genetic dilution of local bird populations, or the taking of wild hen pheasants in some areas. However, the KDWPT representative stated that these concerns are not realized at this time. In addition, KDWPT stated according to agency records, 29 counties do not have CSAs within the county and only 1 county, Elk County, has reached the current acreage cap.

There was no opposition testimony at the Senate Committee hearing.

The Senate Committee amended the bill by reinserting language that the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism shall limit CSAs in a county and changing the limit from 3 percent of the county's total acreage to 5 percent.

The fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on the original version of the bill states the bill could increase the number of annual CSA licenses within the state, which would result in increased revenue to the KDWPT.