

Testimony in Support of SB 451
An Act Removing the 1/16th Blood Quantum Requirement of KSA 32-929
Before
The Senate Committee on Ag and Natural Resources

By Brad Loveless, Secretary
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

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The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks supports Senate Bill 451 and requests that it be placed on the consent calendar.

Pursuant to KSA 32-929, a Native American applying for a permanent license to hunt, fish, and furharvest must submit proof of having “at least 1/16th Indian blood” and “enrollment on a tribal membership roll....” The 1/16th blood quantum requirement for tribal membership is a provision of existing Federal law. Unfortunately, there is no way for KDWP to independently corroborate an applicant’s sanguinity.

Currently, KDWP Licensing personnel comply with the provisions of KSA 32-929 by relying on tribal documents submitted by the applicant. These documents come in the form of either a tribal membership card, which identifies the individual with a photo I.D. and lists their sanguinity, or a letter, on tribal letterhead, from a tribal leader verifying membership enrollment and sanguinity.

To date, all tribes that KDWP works with to issue these permanent licenses have at least a 1/16th blood quantum requirement in order to be enrolled as a tribal member. Having KDWP verify membership and sanguinity is, therefore, unnecessary and redundant.

It is the position of KDWP that there exists no real policy reason to keep the sanguinity requirement in Kansas statute along with the tribal membership requirement. Therefore, I ask this Committee recommend SB 451 favorably for passage and to place this clarifying legislation on the consent calendar.