

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joann Freeborn at 3:30 p.m. on March 12, 2002 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Joann Freeborn - excused
Representative Vaughn Flora - excused
Representative Clay Aurand - excused
Representative Jeff Peterson - excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Ann Graham, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Clint Riley, Department Attorney, KS Department Wildlife and Parks, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS 66612
Whitney B. Damron, 800 SW Jackson, Suite 1100, Topeka, KS 66612-2205

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Vice-Chairman Don Myers called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. He chaired the meeting in Chairperson Joann Freeborn's absent due to illness.

The Chairperson called the committee's attention to an Attorney General's Opinion that had been distributed in reference to the Kansas Tort Claims Act, which Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research briefly reviewed. (See attachment 1)

Chairman Myers asked if there was a motion to approve committee minutes that were distributed in the committee meeting on March 7. Minutes distributed were for January 29 and 31, and March 5 and 7.

Rep. Bill Light made a motion the minutes be approved. Rep. Tom Sloan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB504**.

SB504: Repeals sunset provision allowing hunting in controlled shooting area without hunter education.

Whitney Damron, on behalf of Kansas Sport Hunting Association and Flint Oak Ranch, was welcomed to the committee. He testified in support of the bill which would extend current law exempting participants on a controlled shooting area from having to have passed a hunter safety program prior to hunting on a CSA. The Kansas Sport Hunting Association is a not for profit association of hunting service providers, including controlled shooting area owner/operators, guides and game bird producers. Flint Oak Ranch is considered to be one of the finest hunting and sporting clays facilities in the United States and is located near Fall River, Kansas. Included in his testimony are copies of letters of support of the bill from Pete Laughlin, Flint Oak Ranch; Kenneth Corbet, Ravenwood Lodge; and Keith Houghton, President, Kansas Sport Hunting Association, Ringneck Ranch. (See attachment 2)

Clint Riley, Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks, was welcomed to the committee. He testified on behalf the Department in a neutral position to the bill. The Department recognizes that the issues in the bill are not substantially new or different from those the legislature considered when creating the exemption two years ago. As originally proposed, **SB504** would have eliminated the sunset provision and made the exemption permanent. An amendment in the Senate Committee instead extended the provision by setting a new sunset in 2005. The Department understands this was done in part due to their concerns, and to allow additional time to determine the impact of the exemption. With this consideration, the Department does not oppose the bill. (See attachment 3) Discussion followed.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **SB504** and opened the hearing on **SB431**.

SB431: Issuance of wild turkey permits to person's under 14.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, Room 231-N of the Capitol
at 3:30 p.m. on March 12, 2002.

Clint Riley, Kansas Department Wildlife and Parks, was welcomed back to the podium. He testified in support of the bill and believes this bill would eliminate the minimum age for persons to hunt wild turkey. The bill is one of the Department's legislative initiatives and is supported by the Department. The Department has supported reducing the minimum age for hunting big game in the past, believing that determining the best age to begin hunting is a decision more appropriately made by a parent or guardian. Removing the age restriction for turkey is suggested partly because turkeys are hunted using a only a shotgun rather than a center fire rifle. The Department believes this bill would remove one unnecessary barrier to hunting in Kansas, and would help promote life-long participation in Kansas outdoor recreation. (See attachment 4) Discussion followed.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **SB431** and opened the hearing on **SB430**.

SB430: Physicians from other states to certify disabilities for hunting permits.

Clint Riley, Department Kansas Wildlife and Parks, was welcomed back to the podium. He testified in support of the bill and believes it would expand the category of physicians who may certify a person's disability when applying for certain Wildlife and Parks disability permits. The bill is one of the Department's legislative initiatives. By allowing certification by nonresident physicians, this bill would help remove one potential barrier facing a nonresident with disabilities who wished to hunt in Kansas, but who does not have contact with a Kansas physician. Consequently, the bill would be consistent with the Department's goal of increasing participation in Kansas outdoor recreation. (See attachment 5) Discussion followed.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **SB430**.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2002.