

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
(Amendment)

301 KAR 5:210. Special agency fundraising permits.

RELATES TO: KRS 150.025, 150.175, 150.195

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 150.025, 150.195

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT: The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, pursuant to statutory authority to promulgate administrative regulations to carry out the provisions of KRS Chapter 150 as established in KRS 150.025 and as an independent department of state government within the meaning of KRS Chapter 12 as established in KRS 150.021(1), promulgated by the Commissioner with approval of the Commission in accordance with KRS 150.010(1), does hereby certify this administrative regulation is promulgated in compliance with Section 8 of 2025 RS HB6.

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 150.025 authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to promulgate administrative regulations to establish hunting seasons, bag limits, and the methods of taking wildlife. KRS 150.175 requires the department to establish game permits to be used in combination with a statewide hunting license or valid youth statewide license, as well as requirements on how those permits are to be used. KRS 150.195(1) requires the department to promulgate administrative regulations pertaining to the issuance of, and other matters relating to, licenses and permits issued by the department. This administrative regulation establishes the requirements for the issuance and use of Special Agency Fundraising Permits.

Section 1. Definitions.

(1) "Big game pursuit permit" means a permit that allows the holder to lawfully take, in addition to the statewide harvest limits, the following species: one (1) deer of either sex, one (1) bear of either sex, and in the spring turkey season the year after selection, one (1) legal spring turkey.

(2) "Elk expedition permit" means a permit that allows the holder to harvest one (1) elk of either sex.

(3) "Grand slam permit" means a permit that allows the holder to lawfully take during the year of selection, one (1) elk of either sex and, in addition to the statewide harvest limits, the following species: one (1) deer of either sex, one (1) bear of either sex; and in the spring turkey season the year after selection, one (1) legal spring turkey.

(4) "Immediate family" means a person's spouse, mother, father, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, or son.

(5) "Proceeds" means the amount of money received from the sale of applications for special agency fundraising permits.

(6) "Special Agency Fundraising Permit" means a Kentucky hunting permit subject to a special application and drawing process to select the holder, that includes privileges to take specified big game animals when used in conjunction with a statewide annual hunting license.

~~[(1)] ["Elk hunt sweepstakes permit" means a permit that allows the holder to harvest one (1) elk of either sex.]~~

~~[(2)] ["Immediate family" means a person's spouse, mother, father, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, or son.]~~

~~[(3)] ["Premium combination big game permit" means a permit that allows the holder to lawfully take during the year of selection, one (1) elk of either sex and, in addition to the statewide harvest limits, the following species: one (1) deer of either sex, one (1) bear of~~

either sex; and in the spring turkey season the year after selection, one (1) legal spring turkey.]

~~[(4)] ["Proceeds" means the amount of money received from the sale of applications for special agency fundraising permits.]~~

~~[(5)] ["Special Agency Fundraising Permit" means a Kentucky hunting permit subject to a special application and drawing process to select the holder, that includes privileges to take specified big game animals when used in conjunction with a statewide annual hunting license.]~~

~~[(6)] ["Standard combination big game permit" means a permit that allows the holder to lawfully take, in addition to the statewide harvest limits, the following species: one (1) deer of either sex, one (1) bear of either sex, and one (1) legal spring turkey.]~~

Section 2. Application and Drawing Process.

(1) The application period shall be August 1 of the year preceding through May 30 (midnight eastern time) of the year in which the drawing occurs.

(2) An applicant shall:

(a) Complete the application process on the department's Web site at fw.ky.gov, in accordance with Section 1 of 301 KAR 5:030; and

(b) Pay the applicable ~~non-refundable~~~~[nonrefundable]~~ application fee for the permit desired, ~~as outlined in 301 KAR 5:022; or~~~~[as follows:]~~

(c) Complete the process for free entry for a big game pursuit permit, as follows:

~~[1.] [For elk hunt sweepstakes permit and premium combination big game permits:]~~

~~[a.] [Five (5) dollars for residents and ten (10) dollars for nonresidents for one (1) application;]~~

~~[b.] [Ten (10) dollars for residents and twenty (20) dollars for nonresidents per bundle of three (3) applications; and]~~

~~[c.] [Twenty five (25) dollars for residents and fifty (50) dollars for nonresidents per bundle of ten (10) applications.]~~

~~[2.] [For standard combination big game permits:]~~

~~[a.] [Three (3) dollars for residents and six (6) dollars for nonresidents for one (1) application;]~~

~~[b.] [Eight (8) dollars for residents and sixteen (16) dollars for nonresidents per bundle of three (3) applications; and]~~

~~[c.] [Twenty (20) dollars for residents and forty (40) dollars for nonresidents per bundle of ten (10) applications] [;]~~

1. Harvest and telecheck at least four (4) female deer from Zone 1 counties during the previous hunting season as established in 301 KAR 2:172;

2. Electronically submit a time-stamped image of each harvested female deer, up to four (4), to the department at fw.ky.gov; and

3. Submit a request to the department for entry into the big game pursuit permit drawing at fw.ky.gov.

(3) An applicant may purchase an unlimited number of applications or bundles of applications.

(4) The number of special agency fundraising permits available per year shall be:

(a) One (1) elk ~~expedition~~~~[sweepstakes]~~ permit for a resident or nonresident holder;

(b) One (1) ~~grand slam~~ ~~[premium combination big game]~~ permit for a resident or nonresident holder;

(c) One (1) big game pursuit~~[standard combination big game]~~ permit for a resident; and

(d) One (1) big game pursuit~~[standard combination big game]~~ permit for a nonresident.

(5) There shall be a random electronic drawing conducted subsequent to the general elk hunt drawing each year. This drawing shall be taken from among applications in each

applicant pool for the corresponding special agency fundraising permits available for that fall's hunting seasons.

- (a) Each drawing shall be sequential, in the following order:
 1. The grand slam permit ~~[elk hunt sweepstakes]~~ first;
 2. The elk expedition ~~[premium big game]~~ permit second; and
 3. The big game pursuit ~~[standard combination big game]~~ permit, for selection of resident and nonresident permit holders, third.
- (b) If an individual applicant is selected for the grand slam permit or elk expedition ~~[hunt sweepstakes]~~ permit ~~[or the premium combination big game permit]~~, that applicant shall be removed from the other special agency fundraising permits applicant pools prior to the drawings to determine the holders of those other permits.
- (6) The commissioner shall extend the application deadline if technical difficulties with the application system prevent applications from being accepted for one (1) or more days during the application period.
- (7) An applicant who is selected for a grand slam ~~[Kentucky elk hunt sweepstakes]~~ permit shall be ineligible to receive a grand slam permit or the prizes associated with a grand slam ~~[the elk hunt sweepstakes]~~ permit in any subsequent year's drawing.
- (8) A person subject to a waiting period resulting from being selected in the general Kentucky Elk Hunt Drawing shall be eligible to apply for special agency fundraising permits.

Section 3. Issuance and Use of Permits.

- (1) Upon conclusion of the drawing process for special agency fundraising permits, the department shall announce the drawing results on the agency Web site and issue the permits to the recipients, subject to any applicable deferrals or transfers as described in Section 4 of this administrative regulation, prior to the first hunting season for which the permits are applicable.
- (2) A permit holder shall only take animals:
 - (a) Through the use of legal hunting equipment; and
 - (b) During the normal season dates for which take is otherwise allowed.
- (3) A permit holder shall carry proof of purchase of a valid Kentucky hunting license, unless exempted from the requirement to be licensed in accordance with KRS 150.170.
- (4) The holder of a permit that allows take of an elk shall comply with the statewide bag limit of one (1) elk per hunter per license year and other requirements in 301 KAR 2:132.
- (5) The holder of a special agency fundraising permit that includes privileges to take elk may use the permit in any elk hunting unit open to hunting during any open elk hunting season on:
 - (a) Private land with permission from the landowner; or
 - (b) Lands that are:
 1. Owned or managed by the department; and
 2. The subject of public access agreements between the landowners and the department.
- (6) The permit holder referenced in subsection (5) shall only use methods allowed during the season segment that is open while he or she is hunting, as established in 301 KAR 2:132.

Section 4. Deferral or Transfer of Permits.

- (1) A recipient of a special agency fundraising permit that includes privileges to take elk in Kentucky may:
 - (a) Defer use of the elk hunting privilege included in the permit for one (1) year if he or she has previously obtained an elk permit of any kind for use during the Kentucky elk hunting season to which the special agency fundraising permit pertains; or

(b) Transfer use of the elk hunting privilege included in the permit to one (1) member of his or her immediate family for use during any hunting season to which the permit pertains.

(2) A holder wishing to transfer or defer use of the elk hunting privilege included in a permit shall contact the office of the commissioner in writing, no later than July 31 of the year in which he or she is selected through the drawing for the permit.

Section 5. Goods or Services May Be Included. The department may obtain goods or services of interest to prospective applicants, through purchase, donation or sponsorship, to incentivize applications for a special agency fundraising permit. The recipient of the permit shall also receive applicable goods or services included in the drawing for a permit, as posted on the agency Web site, except that a recipient may refuse an applicable good or service at his or her choosing.

Section 6. Use of Fees. Fees from the sale of special agency fundraising permits shall be deposited into the department's restricted Fish and Game Fund account and used solely for agency operational expenditures.

*Approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission
RICH STORM, Commissioner*

APPROVED BY AGENCY: July 13, 2026

FILED WITH LRC: July 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on September 30, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., at KDFWR Administration Building, 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing by five workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing was received by that date, the hearing may be cancelled. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through September 30, 2026. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

CONTACT PERSON: Jenny Gilbert, Legislative Liaison, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, 1 Sportsman's Lane, (502) 564-3400, fax: (502) 564-0506, email: fw.publicaffairs@ky.gov

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

Contact Person:Jenny Gilbert **Phone:** 502-564-3400 **Email:** fw.publicaffairs@ky.gov

Subject Headings:Fish and Wildlife, Hunting, Tourism, Licensing

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does:

This administrative regulation establishes the requirements for the issuance and use of Special Agency Fundraising Permits.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation:

The regulation is necessary to legally authorize and regulate agency fundraising hunting permits that generate revenue for Kentucky wildlife programs while maintaining fair access and conservation controls.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

This administrative regulation conforms to the authorizing statutes by establishing the procedures, eligibility requirements, fees, drawing processes, and conditions governing special agency fundraising permits. The regulation implements the Department's statutory authority to issue hunting permits, manage wildlife resources, and administer fundraising programs that support fish and wildlife conservation while ensuring compliance with applicable hunting laws and management objectives.

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

This administrative regulation assists in the effective administration of the statutes by providing detailed procedures for the application, issuance, transfer, and use of special agency fundraising permits. The regulation establishes clear eligibility requirements, application fees, drawing procedures, and permit conditions, which promote consistent and transparent administration of the program. It also generates funding to support fish and wildlife conservation programs while ensuring that permit holders comply with wildlife management objectives, harvest limits and other applicable hunting laws.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation:

The amendment changes the title of the regulation and titles of the special agency fundraising permits to further distinguish the difference between this program and special commission permits. It also incorporates provisions of House Bill 142 from the 2026 General Session.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation:

HB 142 contained an emergency clause, and the amendment incorporates relevant portions of the bill that became law. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission also voted favorably to propose changes to the reg title and names of the special agency fundraising permits.

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes:

The amendment conforms to the authorizing statutes by implementing provisions of HB 142 that require the Department to grant an entry into the special agency

fundraising permit drawing to qualifying hunters who meet the deer harvest, reporting, photographic verification, and application requirements established by law.

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes:

The amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes by reducing any potential confusion about the difference of the special agency fundraising permit program and special commission permit program. It also provides clear eligibility criteria and verification requirements for entry into the special agency fundraising permit drawing. By requiring documented harvest of at least four female antlerless deer from designated overpopulated areas, telecheck photo verification, and a matching entry request, the amendment improves accuracy, reduces fraud risk, and streamlines administration of the drawing process while supporting statutory wildlife management goals.

(3) Does this administrative regulation or amendment implement legislation from the previous five years? 2026 Regular Session. House Bill 142

(4) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation:

Individual holders of licenses and permits, and applicants to obtain limited quota permits, to hunt big game in Kentucky number 200,000-300,000 per year.

(5) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (4) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (4) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment:

N/A

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (4):

Prices for applying to receive one of the permits created by this regulation range from \$3 to \$50 based upon residency status, the type of permit being applied for, and the number of entries being purchased. Licensing requirements may also result in incurred cost for non-license exempt hunters who wish to legally harvest female deer in order to obtain an entry for the big game pursuit permit.

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (4):

Individuals who harvest and telecheck at least four (4) female deer from Zone 1 counties during the previous hunting season as established in 301 KAR 2:172; and electronically submit a time-stamped image of each harvested female deer, up to four (4), to the department at fw.ky.gov; and submit a request to the department for entry into the big game pursuit permit drawing at fw.ky.gov will have special opportunities to be selected at random to hunt big game in Kentucky and receive donated/sponsored goods and services.

(6) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost the administrative body to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially:

There will be no added costs required to implement this amendment, however, the Department may choose to expend funds to procure supplementary goods or services to be included in the package awarded to the selected applicants or to

market the program to increase public awareness and participation. Any such added costs would be estimated at \$5,000.00 or less.

(b) On a continuing basis:

There will be no added costs for this amendment required on a continuing basis associated with this amendment, however, the Department may choose to expend funds to procure supplementary goods or services to be included in the package awarded to the selected applicants or to market the program to increase public awareness and participation. Any such added costs would be estimated at \$5,000.00 or less.

(7) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation or this amendment:

The Department will use agency revenues in the Fish and Game Fund to implement this amendment.

(8) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment:

The amendment will not require an increase of existing fees.

(9) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees:

The regulation established fees for voluntary applications for the drawing to award special agency fundraising permits, as reflected in the regulation

(10) TIERING: Is tiering applied?

Tiering is unnecessary because any individual may participate voluntarily

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(1) Identify each state statute, federal statute, or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation:

KRS 150.175 authorizes the department to establish game permits to be used in combination with a statewide hunting license or valid youth statewide license, and how those permits are to be used. KRS 150.195(1) requires the department to promulgate administrative regulations pertaining to the issuance of, and other matters relating to licenses and permits issued by the department.

(2) State whether this administrative regulation is expressly authorized by an act of the General Assembly, and if so, identify the act:

2026 HB 142

(3)(a) Identify the promulgating agency and any other affected state units, parts, or divisions:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

(b) Estimate the following for each affected state unit, part, or division identified in (3)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

2. Revenues:

For the first year:Revenue from the program exceeded \$100,000 in the first year that special agency fundraising permits were awarded.

For subsequent years:The Department anticipates that as public awareness grows and donations/sponsorships for products and services grow that revenue potential will increase significantly over time.

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

(4)(a) Identify affected local entities (for example: cities, counties, fire departments, school districts):

N/A

(b) Estimate the following for each affected local entity identified in (4)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

2. Revenues:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

(5)(a) Identify any affected regulated entities not listed in (3)(a) or (4)(a):
N/A

(b) Estimate the following for each regulated entity identified in (5)(a):

1. Expenditures:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

2. Revenues:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

3. Cost Savings:

For the first year:N/A

For subsequent years:N/A

(6) Provide a narrative to explain the following for each entity identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a)

(a) Fiscal impact of this administrative regulation:

The Department anticipates that as public awareness grows and donations/sponsorships for products and services grow that participation and revenue potential will increase significantly over time.

(b) Methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

Based on initial returns, the special agency fundraising permit opportunity was well received by the public and the Department exceeded its revenue generation goal with modest promotion.

(7) Explain, as it relates to the entities identified in (3)(a), (4)(a), and (5)(a):

(a) Whether this administrative regulation will have a "major economic impact", as defined by KRS 13A.010(14):

This regulation will not have a major economic impact on state or local government or individuals who may voluntarily participate in the special permit drawing program.

(b) The methodology and resources used to reach this conclusion:

Implementation and compliance costs have been minimal, and the changes included in the amendment should not incur costs anywhere near the \$500,000 threshold.