

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Troy Waymaster, Chairperson  
House Committee on Appropriations  
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 112-N  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Waymaster:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for HB 2800 by House Committee on Appropriations

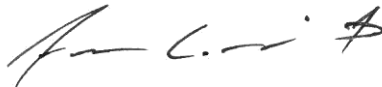
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2800 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2800 would amend current law pertaining to conservation districts. The bill would increase the cap on the amount of funding disbursed by the Division of Conservation in the Department of Agriculture to conservation districts from \$25,000 to \$50,000 beginning in FY 2025, subject to appropriations. Additionally, the bill would provide an increased matching basis for state funding disbursed to conservation districts (\$2 state funding to \$1 county funding) based on amounts allocated by the board of county commissioners for districts; however, that the total amount disbursed could not exceed the newly established cap of \$50,000 per district.

The Department of Agriculture estimates that the enactment of the bill could increase state aid to conservation districts in the agency's Division of Conservation. The Department indicates that the FY 2024 appropriation from the State Water Plan Fund (SWPF) totaling \$2.5 million provided an average of \$23,835 per disbursement to each district. These disbursements to conservation districts occurred on July 5, 2023 (Beginning of FY 2024). For FY 2025, the Governor recommends a \$2.5 million appropriation from the SWPF and a \$1.0 million transfer from the 2023 HB 2302 Projects Fund in the Kansas Water Office for state aid to conservation districts. The Department notes that the appropriation and transfer could increase state aid to conservation districts in FY 2025; however, any state aid to conservation districts would be subject to the ultimately legislative-approved appropriation and the matching county commissions allocations to conservation districts. As a result, a fiscal effect for FY 2025 cannot be estimated.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that enactment of the bill could increase counties allocations to conservation districts to meet the new match amount; however, a fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt  
Director of the Budget

cc: Lita Biggs, Department of Agriculture  
Jay Hall, Kansas Association of Counties