

CORRECTED
SESSION OF 2017

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2272**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Water and Environment

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2272 would establish the Kansas Water Authority Science and Research Subcommittee (Subcommittee) composed of the following members:

- The Dean of the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University or their designee;
- The Director of the Kansas Geological Survey or their designee; and
- The Director of the Kansas Biological Survey or their designee.

The Subcommittee would carry out the following duties:

- Recommend research priorities and necessary funding levels for research that will better determine the causes of ground water and surface water sustainability and water quality problems and alternative water sources;
- Scientifically evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of State Water Plan-funded projects and programs; and
- Recommend re-prioritization of State Water Plan-funded projects and programs, if necessary, and

*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>

recommend funding levels necessary to carry out the projects and programs.

In addition, the Subcommittee would be required to provide an annual report to the Kansas Water Authority and the Governor on or before August 1 of each year. The report would include the results of scientific research, project and program evaluations, and funding level requirements to continue the scientific assessments and the State Water Plan funded projects and programs.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Water and Environment. At the House Committee hearing, a representative of Audubon of Kansas provided testimony in favor of the bill, which, as introduced, would establish the Kansas Water Collaborative, a group of 15 members that would ensure state agencies are maximizing the value of agency actions for Kansas and its water resources through collaborative strategic thinking. Representatives of WaterOne and the Kansas Water Office provided testimony in opposition to the bill. The Kansas Department of Agriculture provided written-only testimony against the bill. Representatives of the Kansas Geological Survey provided neutral, informational testimony on the bill.

The House Committee recommended the removal of the contents of HB 2272 and the creation of a substitute bill establishing the Kansas Water Authority Science and Research Subcommittee.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill, enactment would result in some small fiscal effect with regard to the expense of conducting meetings and workshops, but the cost cannot be estimated. An updated fiscal note was not immediately available.