Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 2-1930 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) "Division" means the Kansas department of agriculture division of conservation;
(b) "historic consumptive water use" means an amount of use of a water right as calculated pursuant to subsection (k); and
(c) "program" means the water right transition assistance program.

There is hereby established the water right transition assistance pilot project. The program shall be administered by the Kansas department of agriculture, division of water resources and recognized local governing agencies, including groundwater management districts, shall cooperate in program implementation. The program shall be administered for the purpose of reducing historic consumptive water use in the target or high priority areas of the state by issuing water right transition grants based on competitive bids for privately held water rights.

The state conservation commission may receive and expend funds from the federal or state government, or private source for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section. The state conservation commission and the participating groundwater management districts shall carry over unexpended funds from one fiscal year to the next.

Federal and state funds shall not exceed $1,500,000 per year. The maximum amount paid by the division shall not exceed a base rate per acre-foot of historic consumptive water use made available under the water right to be dismissed or permanently reduced. The state conservation commission shall establish an annual base rate after considering recommendations from the chief engineer and the groundwater management districts regarding market conditions.

State conservation commission expenditures for permanent partial water right retirements shall not exceed 30% of the total amount of funds for the water right transition assistance pilot project program.

The state conservation commission may enter into water right transition assistance pilot project program contracts with landowners that will result in the permanent retirement or reduction of part or all of landowner's historic consumptive water rights by action of the chief engineer as provided for in subsection (f) of this section.

All applications for permanent irrigation water right retirements shall be considered for funding. Permanent retirement of partial water rights shall only be approved by the Kansas department of agriculture division of water resources when the local groundwater management district has the metering and monitoring capabilities necessary to ensure compliance with the program.

Permanent retirement of partial water rights shall only be approved by the Kansas department of agriculture division of water resources when the groundwater management district has the metering and monitoring capabilities necessary to ensure compliance with the program. When prioritizing among water right applications for acceptance under the water right transition assistance pilot project, applications for permanent water right retirement shall be prioritized for payment based on the following criteria:

1. The applicant's bid price;
2. the timing and extent of the impact of the application on aquifer restoration or stream recovery;
3. the impact on local water management strategies designated by the board of each groundwater management district or by the chief engineer for each target area; and
4. where rights with similar hydrologic impacts are considered, priority should be given to the senior right as determined under the Kansas water appropriation act.

Water rights enrolled in the water right transition assistance pilot project program for permanent retirement shall require the written consent of all landowners and authorized agents to voluntarily request
permanent reduction or permanent dismissal and forfeiture of priority of
the enrolled water right. Upon enrollment of the water right into the
water right transition assistance pilot project program, the chief engineer
of the Kansas department of agriculture division of water resources shall
concurrently permanently reduce or permanently dismiss and terminate
the water right in accordance with the terms of the contract.

(g) (1) The state conservation commission division shall make wa-
ter right transition grants available only in areas that have been designated as:

(A) Target or high priority areas by the groundwater management
districts and the chief engineer of the Kansas department of agriculture
division of water resources; or

(B) target areas outside the groundwater management districts as
designated by the chief engineer of the Kansas department of agriculture
division of water resources.

(2) Two of the target or high priority areas shall be the prairie dog
creek area located in hydrologic unit code 10250015 and the rattlesnake
creek subbasin located in hydrologic unit code 11030009. Each target
area shall be in a groundwater aquifer, aquifer sub-unit, surface water
basin, subbasin or stream reach that the chief engineer has closed to fur-
ther appropriations except for domestic use, temporary permits, term per-
mits for five years or less and small-use exemptions for 15 acre-feet or
less, if the use, permit or exemption does not conflict with this program.

(3) The designation of each target area shall include the identification
of a historic consumptive water use retirement goal. When such goal is
reached, the target area will be delisted.

(4) The designation of each target area shall include the identification of
sub-regions which are to be prioritized for retirements among compet-
ing bids.

(h) (i) Contracts accepted under the water right transition assistance
program shall result in a net reduction in historic consumptive water use
equivalent to the amount of historic consumptive use of the water right
or rights enrolled in the program based on the average historic consump-
tive water use in the target area. Except as provided for in subsections
(i) and (j), once a water right transition assistance pilot project
program grant has been provided, the land authorized to be irrigated by
the water right or water rights associated with that grant shall not be
irrigated permanently. Water right transition assistance pilot project
program contracts shall be subject to such terms, conditions and limitations
as may be necessary to ensure that such reduction in historic consumptive
water use occurs and can be adequately monitored and enforced.

(j) “Historic consumptive water use” means:

Only vested or certified water rights which are in good standing shall be eligible for water right
retirement grants. The average amount of water consumed by crops as a
result of the lawful beneficial use of water for irrigation during four of
the six preceding calendar years, with the highest and lowest years re-
moved from the analysis. For purposes of the program, historic con-
sumptive water use will be determined by multiplying the average re-
ported water use for the four selected years by a factor of 0.85 for center
pivot sprinkler irrigation systems, 0.75 for flood or gravity irrigation sy-
tems, and 0.95 for sub-surface drip irrigation systems, but not to exceed
the net irrigation requirements for the 50% chance rainfall for the appropri-
ate county as shown in K.A.R. 5-5-12.

(k) (1) The historic consumptive water use of a water right shall be
determined by either:

(A) Calculating the average amount of water consumed by crops as
a result of the lawful beneficial use of water during the 10 preceding
calendar years of actual irrigation and multiplying the average reported
water use for the 10 selected years by a factor of 0.85 for center pivot
sprinkler irrigation systems, 0.75 for flood or gravity irrigation sys-
tems, and 0.95 for sub-surface drip irrigation systems, but not to exceed the
net irrigation requirements for the 50% chance rainfall for the appropri-
ate county as shown in K.A.R. 5-5-12; or

(B) calculating the available pumping capacity of a water right by
multiplying a flow rate test for each point of diversion applied to be retired
under the water right by a theoretical pumping duration of 100 days
multiplied by an efficiency factor of 0.85 for center pivot sprinkler irri-
gation systems, 0.75 for flood or gravity irrigation systems and 0.95 for
subsurface drop irrigation systems, but not to exceed the authorized quantity of the water right or the net irrigation requirements for the 50% chance rainfall for the appropriate county as shown in K.A.R. 5-5-12. Flow rate tests must have been conducted not less than one year prior to the application date and certified as acceptable by the local groundwater management district or the chief engineer; or

(2) The applicant may also submit an engineering study that determines the average historic consumptive water use as an alternative method if it is demonstrated to be more accurate for the water right or water rights involved.

(i) Enrollment of an entire water right or a portion of a water right where land associated with the quantity is being permanently reduced from the water right, in the water right transition assistance pilot project program shall not subsequently prohibit irrigation of the land that, prior to enrollment, was authorized by the water right or water rights if irrigation can be lawfully allowed by another water right or permit pursuant to the rules and regulations and consideration of any future changes to other water rights that may be proposed to be transferred to such land.

(m) If more than one water right overlaps the place of use authorized by the water right proposed to be enrolled in the water right transition assistance pilot project program, then all overlapping water rights shall be enrolled in the water right transition assistance pilot project program or the landowners shall take the necessary lawful steps to eliminate the overlap with the water right to be enrolled. The burden shall be on the landowner to provide sufficient information to substantiate that the proposed use of water by the resulting exercise of all water rights involved will result in the net reduction amount of historic consumptive water use by the water right or water rights to be enrolled. The state conservation commission division may require such documentation to be provided by someone with special knowledge or experience related to water rights and such operations.

(n) The state conservation commission division shall adopt rules and regulations as necessary for the administration of this section. When adopting such rules and regulations the state conservation commission division shall consider cropping, system design, metered water use and all other pertinent information that will permit a verifiable reduction in annual historic consumptive water use and permit alternative crop or other use of the land so that the landowner’s economic opportunities are taken into account.

(o) Water right transition assistance grants for water rights to remain unused for the contract period shall constitute due and sufficient cause for nonuse pursuant to K.S.A. 82-718 and amendments thereto pursuant to the determination of the chief engineer for the duration of the water right transition assistance pilot project program contract.

(p) The provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2022.
lows: 2-1931. (a) Any person who commits any of the following may incur a civil penalty as provided by this section:

1. Any violation of the Kansas water right transition assistance program act or any rule and regulation adopted thereunder; and
2. Any violation of term, condition or limitation defined and or imposed within the contractual agreement between the Kansas department of agriculture division of conservation and the water right owner.

(b) Any participant who violates any section of a water right transition assistance program contract shall be subject to either one or both of the following:

1. A civil penalty of not less than $100 nor more than $1,000 per violation. Each day shall constitute a separate violation for purposes of this section; and
2. Repayment of the grant amount in its entirety plus a penalty at six percent (6%) of the full grant amount.

(c) Any penalties or reimbursements received under this act shall be reappropriated for use in the water right transition assistance program.

(d) The provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, 2022.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2011 Supp. 2-1930 and 2-1931 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above Bill originated in the House, and passed that body

House concurred in Senate amendments

__________________________
Speaker of the House

__________________________
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate

as amended

__________________________
President of the Senate

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED

__________________________
Governor