House Sub. for SB 191 would authorize the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to fix, charge, and collect fees for requested laboratory testing to recover all or part of the costs incurred to provide services and any other necessary and incidental expenses incurred in conjunction with such laboratory testing. The bill also would appropriate a no-limit fund.

Background

The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget recommended a substitute bill for SB 191, the contents of which had been amended into SB 124. The language within the substitute bill has been included in a proposed appropriation bill in the House Committee on Appropriations, but it has not yet been passed out of Committee.

The original bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources at the request of an official of the KDA. SB 191, as amended, would establish the Water Rights Conservation Program, which would be administered by the Chief Engineer of the Division of Water Resources within the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA).

*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
Proponents testifying in favor of the substitute bill included the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the Kansas representative of Cooperative Council.

The fiscal note provided on the original version of the bill by the Division of the Budget indicates that the proposed fee of $300 would be adequate to cover the KDA's costs of processing program applications. Although the KDA is unable to estimate how many applications there would be, any increase in staff time would be funded by the application fees. The fiscal effect of the bill is not included in The FY 2012 Governor's Budget Report.

A fiscal note was not available on the provisions contained in the substitute bill.