Brief*

SB 78, as amended, would authorize the Governor to make the appointments to the State Fair Board and the Kansas Bioscience Authority Board that currently are made by the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC) Board. The bill also would increase the size of the Bioscience Authority Board from 11 members to 12 members. The State Fair Board would remain the same with 13 members.

The Secretaries of the Departments of Commerce and Revenue would become ex officio voting members of the Bioscience Authority Board. The Commerce Secretary would be designated chairperson of the Board, and the Revenue Secretary would be designated the Board's treasurer.

Background

As part of the Governor's initiative to reorganize the executive branch, it has been proposed that KTEC be abolished and its powers and responsibilities be assigned to the Department of Commerce and the Board of Regents.

Proponents for the bill included personnel with the State Fair and the president of the State Fair Board. There was no opposition testimony.

*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
According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, in consultation with the State Fair and KTEC, the bill as introduced would require the State Fair to cover the per diem expenses of the Fair Board member that is reimbursed by KTEC currently. The State Fair estimates that an additional $3,000 from the State Fair Fee Fund would be necessary to pay the additional expenses. No fiscal estimate was provided on the amended bill.

The Senate Committee on Commerce amended the bill to increase the size of the Kansas Bioscience Authority from eleven members to 12 members and to authorize the Secretaries of Commerce and Revenue to become ex officio Board officers.