

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 380

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 380 would establish the Local Food and Farm Task Force. The Task Force would be responsible for preparing a local food and farm plan containing policy and funding recommendations in order to increase locally grown food production. The Task Force would be composed of seven members, as follows:

- Three members appointed by the governor, including the chairperson;
- One member representing the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA);
- One member representing the Kansas State University Extension Systems and Agricultural Research Programs, appointed by the Dean of the College of Agriculture; and
- One member from the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and one from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, each appointed by the respective chairperson and representing different political parties.

Background

The Senate Committee on Agriculture introduced the bill upon request of Senator Hawk.

*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>

At the Senate Committee hearing on the bill, Senator Hawk provided testimony in favor of the bill, stating the formation of the task force is an opportunity to create jobs, help small farms, and improve the health of Kansas citizens through access to healthier, more affordable foods. Others testifying in favor of the bill included representatives of Douglas County, KDA, Kansas Rural Center, and Kansas Small Business Development Center. Representatives from KC Healthy Kids, Kansas Livestock Association, and Kansas State University provided neutral testimony.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to reduce the task force membership from 18 members to 7. The Committee also struck language that would have provided paid mileage for the members and inserted language that would designate KDA to provide administrative assistance in the start-up and structure of the Task Force.

The Senate Committee of the Whole adopted a technical amendment to the bill.

The fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on the original version of the bill indicates the cost of providing paid mileage to the members would be negligible to the state; however, the mileage provision was struck by the Senate Committee.