

March 11, 2016

REVISED

The Honorable Sharon Schwartz, Chairperson  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Statehouse, Room 149-S  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Schwartz:

**SUBJECT:** Revised Fiscal Note for HB 2060 by House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following revised fiscal note concerning HB 2060 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2060 would authorize the Governor to enter into the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact. The Compact would promote the effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Great Plains region of the United States by maintaining adequate forest fire fighting services and providing reciprocal aid in fighting forest fires among the states that have ratified the Compact. Each state could formulate and enact a forest fire plan. Each member state would be required to assure that workers compensation benefits conform to the legal minimum requirements of the state and are available to all employees and contract firefighters sent to a requesting member state. Other requirements of the Compact are specified in the bill.

In the previous fiscal note, the Adjutant General indicated HB 2060 would require a wildlife plan to be created at an approximate cost of \$150,000 and two out-of-state trips for five agency staff members at a cost of \$10,000. Since that time, more information has been obtained by the agency. The information in the previous fiscal note was primarily based on the State of Nebraska's experience with the Compact. In Nebraska, the State Emergency Management Office administers the Compact. In Kansas, the Compact would be administered by the Kansas Forest Service of Kansas State University (KSU). There would be no fiscal effect to the Adjutant General resulting from the enactment of HB 2060.

KSU indicates there would be no fiscal effect on the Kansas Forest Service if the bill is enacted. According to KSU, the Compact does not require any membership dues and the Compact does not require the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services above

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expenditures currently budgeted. In addition, KSU states participation in an emergency request is voluntary based on resource availability.

The Kansas Department of Labor estimates there could be additional workers compensation cases presented to administrative law judges; however the additional cases could be absorbed within existing resources. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment states there could be a fiscal effect on the Kansas Workers Compensation Program; however, the agency cannot estimate a fiscal effect. The State Fire Marshal and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism indicate enactment of HB 2060 would have no fiscal effect on the operations of either agency. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2060 is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,  
Director of the Budget

cc: Cheri Froetschner, Adjutant General's Office  
Becky Bahr, Fire Marshal's Office  
Aaron Dunkel, Health & Environment  
Chris Tymeson, Wildlife, Parks & Tourism  
Dawn Palmberg, Department of Labor