

SESSION OF 2015

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 227**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Natural  
Resources

**Brief\***

SB 227 would enact new law by requiring the Chief Engineer of the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) to give due consideration to water management or conservation measures previously implemented by a water right holder when implementing further limitations on a water right. The Chief Engineer would be required to take into account reductions in water use, changes in water management practices, and other measures undertaken by the water right holder. The new law would be part of and supplemental to the Kansas Water Appropriation Act.

In addition, the bill would amend the Act to require the Chief Engineer to give due consideration to water users who already have implemented reductions in water use resulting in voluntary conservation measures when reviewing local enhanced management plans (LEMAs).

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

Representatives of the KDA and Kansas Farm Bureau provided testimony in favor of the bill. The KDA and Kansas Farm Bureau representatives stated these changes should help Kansas water users understand that the State does not want to punish good stewardship of water resources. A

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\*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>

representative of Groundwater Management District No. 4 provided neutral testimony on the bill, citing concerns regarding a portion of the bill that would place in statute a ten-year period of water use data.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to remove the ten-year period of water use data language. The Committee also adopted a technical amendment.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget states the KDA considers the bill to be technical in nature and passage of the bill, as introduced, would not have a fiscal effect on agency operations.