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LEGISLATURE of THE STATE of KANSAS

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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Sloan and Members of the Committee on Water and Environment

From: Matt Sterling, Assistant Revisor of Statutes

Date: 02/09/2017

RE: House Bill 2272

HB 2272 would establish the Kansas water collaborative. The collaborative would consist of 15 members including: The director of the Kansas water office, the director of the Kansas biological survey, the director of the Kansas geological survey, one member from the division of water resources and one member from the conservation division of the department of agriculture, one member from a regional advisory committee designated by the director of the Kansas water office, one member from the division of environment designated by the secretary of KDHE, one member from the department of wildlife, parks and tourism, the state forester, one member from the college of agriculture and one member from the college of engineering at Kansas State University, one member from the Kansas farm bureau, one member from the league of Kansas municipalities, one member from the Kansas chamber of commerce, and one member from the Kansas nature conservancy.

The mission of the Kansas water collaborative would be to ensure that state agencies maximize the value of agency actions for Kansas and its water resources through collaborative strategic thinking, resource allocation and data-driven decision making. The collaborative would be directed to: Promote coordinated data-driven decision making on state water policies and investments, facilitate inter-agency cooperation and collaboration, facilitate cooperation and collaboration with non-governmental entities and other government agencies, facilitate cooperation with federal agencies, collect and distribute data collected by different agencies and entities, ensure that appropriate data is collected and shared between the participating agencies and entities, ensure that data is being properly analyzed, develop program and policy recommendations that facilitate collaboration among agencies and entities, and to recommend policies and investments that the Legislature and agencies should consider.

The collaborative would study and provide recommendations on any specific water priorities identified by the Legislature and would report and provide findings on surface and ground water priorities. The collaborative would be co-directed by the directors of the Kansas biological survey and the Kansas geological survey with the director of the Kansas water office serving as an adviser to the codirectors. The collaborative would convene regular workshops, study sessions and meetings to ensure the mission of the collaborative is accomplished and to ensure completion of the water priorities identified by the legislature. Members of the collaborative would not receive compensation, subsistence allowances, mileage or associated expenses from the state.