

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2818

As Amended by House Committee on
Agriculture

Brief*

HB 2818 would establish the Kansas Sunflower Commission. The Commission would establish a program of market development and promotion for sunflower seeds in the same manner as the other grain commodity commissions. The program would be funded by an assessment on the sale of sunflowers in the state. The bill would require the Governor to appoint the nine commissioners on or after September 1, 2002. Interested persons or entities in the agriculture industry would be able to submit names to the Governor for consideration for appointment. The commissioners would eventually be elected by sunflower producers beginning in 2005 from crop reporting districts as outlined in the legislation. The bill would allow the Sunflower Commission to set the assessment rate; however, the assessment would be limited to a maximum of \$.03 per cwt.

The bill also would extend the deadline date for submission of a petition to be on the commission election ballot from October 31 to November 30. This provision would apply to all five of the commodity commissions.

Background

This bill was introduced at the request of a sunflower producer from north central Kansas. At the hearing on the bill, this producer stated that the goal of the commission would be to increase the amount of research, sales, and consumption associated with this commodity in order to increase net returns to sunflower producers. The conferee stated that the check-off would raise approximately

*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.accesskansas.org/legislature/>

\$123,000 per year. Written testimony in support of the bill from the Kansas Farm Bureau was distributed.

The House Committee amended the bill to extend the submission deadline of a petition for a candidate to be on a commodity commission.

The fiscal note states that the amount of revenue that would be generated by the Commission is unknown. It also states that the Department of Agriculture estimates that \$4,657 of the total revenue generated by the Sunflower Commission would be received by the agency in FY 2003 and FY 2004. Expenditures by the agency would match the amount of revenue. The note states that, as with the other commodity commissions, only the amount needed to administer the law would be diverted to the state agency.