

SESSION OF 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 500

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Agriculture

Brief*

SB 500 would allow the Department of Agriculture to add any additional fee charged by the United States government for the acquisition of federal phytosanitary certificates.

Background

The bill was introduced at the request of a spokesperson from the Kansas Department of Agriculture. At the hearing on the bill, a spokesperson from the Department of Agriculture indicated that there was the possibility that the federal government would add a fee to the phytosanitary certificates issued by the agency. The spokesperson stated that the agency already was at the statutory maximum for these types of inspection fees and wanted the authority to pass along the cost of the federal fee to those wishing to obtain a phytosanitary certificate. (Phytosanitary certificates are issued to those who wish to ship plants or plant materials out of the state.) Also appearing in support of the bill was a spokesperson representing the Kansas Grain and Feed Association.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture amended the bill so that if the federal government includes a fee, that fee would become a rule and regulation of the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

The fiscal note on the original bill indicates that if the federal government may charge the Department of Agriculture a \$16 processing fee for each phytosanitary certificate it issues. The Department projects that 1,250 phytosanitary certificates would be issued during the average fiscal year. By adding the federal processing charges to the amount charged for the certificates, fee revenue would increase by \$20,000 per year (1,250 certificates X \$16). The bill would allow the Department to recover its costs related to processing the certificates rather than absorbing the cost in current resources. There would be no change to expenditures from the passage of this bill.

*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>