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**KANSAS OFFICE of**  
**REVISOR of STATUTES**  
**LEGISLATURE of THE STATE of KANSAS**  
*Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Chairman Love and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

From: David Wiese, Assistant Revisor

Date: 3/17/15

Subject: HB 2061

House Bill No. 2061 amends the list of duties the Kansas department of agriculture division of conservation has in consultation with the state conservation commission.

The bill adds to the list the duty to take necessary action to restore, establish, enhance and protect natural resources for the purposes of compensatory mitigation required under section 404 of the federal clean water act. To carry out this duty, the bill would allow the department to (1) accept, purchase or otherwise acquire conservation easements, (2) contract with engineering consultants, surveyors and construction contractors, and (3) establish fees for the administration of compensatory mitigation credits and ensure the mitigation projects are in existence.

The bill also creates a conservation fund in the state treasury for the purpose of collecting the fees authorized in the bill and funding the conservation projects.