

## HOUSE BILL No. 2184

By Committee on Appropriations

1-24

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9 AN ACT concerning water; providing for establishment of the upper Ar-  
10 kansas river conservation reserve enhancement program.

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12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. (a) As used in this section:

14 (1) "Farm services agency" means the United States department of  
15 agriculture farm services agency.

16 (2) "Arkansas river corridor" means those portions of the upper Ar-  
17 kansas river basin within Hamilton, Kearny, Finney, Gray, Ford, Ed-  
18 wards, Pawnee, Stafford, Barton and Rice counties.

19 (b) Upon execution of an agreement between the state of Kansas and  
20 the farm services agency for implementation of an upper Arkansas river  
21 conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP), the state conser-  
22 vation commission and the Kansas water office are hereby authorized to  
23 establish such program. The program shall be a joint state-federal pro-  
24 gram, to be administered for the state by the state conservation  
25 commission.

26 (c) The upper Arkansas river conservation reserve enhancement pro-  
27 gram shall have the purpose of reducing withdrawal demands on the high  
28 plains aquifer, improving water quality, protecting public water supplies  
29 and enhancing wildlife habitat. The program shall provide for voluntary  
30 retirement of water rights in the Arkansas river corridor, in accordance  
31 with: (1) A program prepared and submitted by the state conservation  
32 commission and the Kansas water office and presented to the senate  
33 committee on natural resources and the house committee on agriculture  
34 and natural resources; and (2) rules and regulations adopted by the state  
35 conservation commission.

36 (d) The state conservation commission shall adopt rules and regula-  
37 tions for the implementation and administration of the upper Arkansas  
38 river conservation reserve enhancement program. The rules and regula-  
39 tions shall include, but are not limited to, eligibility requirements for and  
40 conditions of participation in the program and incentives to participate in  
41 the program.

42 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
43 publication in the statute book.