

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 548

As Amended by House Committee on
Agriculture

Brief*

SB 548 would permit the Secretary of Agriculture to designate any county as a *Sericea lespedeza* disaster area to provide for the control and eradication within that county. This designation could begin on July 1, 2002 and would end on June 30, 2005. The designation could occur only after the Secretary has consulted with the board of county commissioners in the county to be declared a *Sericea lespedeza* disaster area. In addition, the bill would give specific authority to the conservation districts in the state to control and eradicate *Sericea lespedeza* in those counties within the district where a disaster has been declared between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2005. The bill also would permit moneys distributed from the state to conservation districts to be used for the control and eradication of *Sericea lespedeza* on both public and private lands in areas declared as a disaster area from July 1, 2002 until June 30, 2005.

Other amendments in the bill are technical.

Background

At the hearing on the bill, support was expressed by representatives of the following organizations: the Kansas Livestock Association; the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts; the Kansas Farm Bureau; and the State Conservation Commission. The Secretary of Agriculture also appeared in support of the bill. There were no opponents to the 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.accesskansas.org/legislature/>

The Senate Agriculture Committee amended the bill to reflect the current organization of the Department of Agriculture and also to reflect the current responsibilities of the agency.

The House Agriculture Committee amended the bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to consult with the board of county commissioners before the Secretary declares a county to be a Sericea lespedeza disaster area. Another amendment the House Committee made was technical.

The fiscal note on the bill states that the Department of Agriculture estimates expenditures of \$2,500 to develop the criteria necessary for the Secretary to declare a county a sericea lespedeza disaster area. These costs would be absorbed by the agency. SB 548 would add to the list of projects for which a conservation district may receive grants. However, SB 548 does not require any funding for conservation districts. Rather, funding must be appropriated. As a result, SB 548 would not result in any additional fiscal effect unless an appropriation is made.