

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 257

As Amended by Senate Committee of
the Whole

Brief*

SB 257, as amended, increases most fees under the Kansas Pet Animal Act by 25 percent. Fees for animal breeders, retail breeders, and research facilities all holding United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) licenses increase from \$150 to \$188. Fees for retail breeders not holding a USDA license increase from \$300 to \$375. For distributors, in-state distributor fees increase to \$500 and out-of-state distributor fees increase to \$625. In addition, all pet shops will be assessed a fee of \$375. Licenses for hobby breeders and kennel operators increase from \$75 to \$94. The statutory maximum for pounds and shelters increases to \$375.

Background

At the hearing on the bill, the director of the animal facilities inspection program of the Animal Health Department testified on the responsibilities of the program. In addition, the director reported on the number of animal seizures conducted in the past six years. These seizures have resulted in considerable expense to the agency and take staff away from their normal duties. The agency representative also recommended that the bill be amended to modify the fee charged to USDA licensed animal breeders, retail breeders, and animal distributors; to charge the full fee to pet shops and out-of-state distributors; and to allow the agency to collect all fees from individuals with multiple licenses.

Several individuals from the animal breeders industry presented spoken or written testimony in opposition to the bill. Conferees

*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>

commented on the multiple inspections being conducted by the Animal Health Department, the USDA, and local veterinarians. It was also stated that the same fee is assessed on producers regardless of the size of the facility.

In addition, an individual involved in animal rescue testified in favor of the bill with exceptions.

The Committee has received written testimony from industry representatives both in favor of and in opposition to the bill, including a producer survey indicating that a flat fee increase was the most favorable fee proposal among surveyed individuals.

The fiscal note on the original bill indicates that this would increase all funds revenue by \$89,213. The 20.0 percent designated to the State General Fund is \$17,843 with the remaining \$71,370 designated for the agency's fee fund.