

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2582

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2582 creates the HorseThief Reservoir Benefit District. The District would consist of Finney, Ford, Gray, and Hodgeman counties. The bill creates an eight-member governing board including:

- ! Four members appointed—one each from the county commissioners of each member county;
- ! Two members appointed—one each by the governing body of the cities of Dodge City and Garden City;
- ! One member appointed by the Pawnee Watershed District, who serves as the board chairperson; and
- ! The Secretary of Wildlife and Parks or the secretary's designee.

The board would have the authority to impose a districtwide sales tax, issue bonds to finance the project, and manage recreational facilities within the district. The sales tax could be imposed in increments of 0.05 percent, not to exceed 0.25 percent, and could be used to pay the costs of the project, pay the costs to manage and operate the project, and make debt service payments on bonds related to the project. If the sales tax is not imposed by December 31, 2008, the act will expire.

The bill was amended by the House Appropriations Committee to include that the fee schedule may be set at a reduced rate for residents of counties which are part of the district.

The bill was further amended by the House Committee of the Whole to exclude Ness County from the benefit district.

*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>

Background

At the hearing on the bill, a representative from Pawnee Watershed Joint District No. 81 appeared in support of the bill. The conferee reported that the 450 surface acre reservoir, including a 1,100 acre recreation area, will be the largest body of surface water in Southwest Kansas. It will provide flood control and recreation opportunities for that area of the state. The nine counties with territory within the watershed district were approached about inclusion in the benefit district, with five counties deciding to participate.

The fiscal note on the bill from the Department of Revenue states that the bill does not impact state revenues; however, the Department estimates administrative costs of \$14,800 for FY 2005 if the sales tax is enacted by the benefit district.