

SESSION OF 2006

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 503**

As Agreed to May 2, 2006

Brief*

SB 503 would create the Water Supply Storage Assurance Fund in the Kansas Water Office. The Fund was created in 1986; however, it was inadvertently abolished in 1998. Since that time, the Fund has been established by proviso in the appropriations bill to allow the agency to pay its bills from the Water Supply Storage Assurance Fund. The bill would allow for expenditures from the Fund for the following purposes:

- Payment to the federal government for the annual capital costs of water storage in federal reservoirs;
- Payment and reimbursement to the Water Marketing Fund, State General Fund, or the State Water Plan Fund for water supply storage space for which payment was previously paid;
- Payment to the federal government for annual operations, maintenance and repair costs associated with water supply storage space; and
- Payment and reimbursement to the Water Marketing Fund and the State General Fund for costs incurred by the state for the administration of the Water Assurance Program.

The bill would require the Kansas Water Office to place one stream flow measurement device on the Smoky Hill River below the dam on Cedar Bluff Reservoir.

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. The conference committee summary report may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee deleted the House amendments and inserted language requiring the Kansas Water Office to install one stream flow measurement device on the Smoky Hill River below the dam on Cedar Bluff Reservoir.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. A representative of the Kansas Water Office appeared as a proponent of the bill.

The House Committee on Appropriations amended the bill by adding the contents of 2006 HB 2862. This provision was amended by changing the latitude reference to 38°, 47', and 57" and adding language stating that the stream gauge may be placed as near to this location as practical as determined by the United States Geological survey.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to exempt from inspection the dam located on Lake Barton Country Club property.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill states that the bill would have no fiscal impact. The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on 2006 HB 2862 indicates that the first-year cost of the stream gauge would be \$18,000 from the State General Fund. In addition, annual operation and maintenance costs of \$6,800 would be incurred in subsequent years.