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LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS
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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: 2/10/2025

Re: H.B. 2172, as Introduced: Establishing the water program task force to evaluate the state's water program and funding for such program and requiring a report thereon to the legislature and the governor.

Establishment of the Water Program Task Force¹

The water program task force would be established to evaluate the state's water program and its funding. The task force would consist of 29 voting members and 10 nonvoting ex officio members.

Composition of the Task Force²

Voting members would include chairs and ranking minority members from various committees, appointed members from the house and senate, and representatives from various Kansas organizations. Nonvoting ex officio members would include secretaries and directors from relevant state departments and organizations.

Representation and Appointment³

Each non-legislative member would need to represent specific stakeholders such as Kansas employers with vested water rights, agricultural producers or water utilities. However, not more than two members could represent the same stakeholder. Members would be required to be Kansas residents, with representation from all five conservation regions of the state.

Appointments would need to be completed by April 30, 2025, and vacancies would be filled in the same manner as original appointments.

¹ Pg. 1, line 6

² Pg. 1, line 7 through pg. 2, line 37

³ Pg. 2, line 38 through pg. 3, line 28

Leadership and Meetings⁴

The speaker of the house and the president of the senate would select co-chairpersons from the task force members. The task force could meet at any time and place within the state upon the call of either co-chairperson. A majority of voting members would constitute a quorum.

Members attending meetings would be compensated for expenses if approved by the legislative coordinating council.

Responsibilities of the Task Force⁵

The task force would be required to evaluate risks to the state's water supply, steps for ensuring a multigenerational water promise and current funding sufficiency. A report with recommendations on the water program's long-term structure and funding would need to be submitted to the legislature and governor by January 31, 2026.

Expiration and Effectiveness⁶

The act would expire on July 1, 2027.

H.B. 2172 would become effective upon publication in the Kansas register.

⁴ Pg. 3, line 29 through pg. 4, line 2

⁵ Pg. 4, lines 3-30

⁶ Pg. 4, lines 31-33