

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER:

The Committee on **Water** recommends **SB 317**, As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole, be amended on page 1, following line 15, by inserting:

"Section 1. K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 82a-955 is hereby amended to read as follows: 82a-955.

(a) ~~On July 1, 2024, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer \$45,000,000 from the state general fund to the state water plan fund. On July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, July 1, 2029, and July 1, 2030,~~ the director of accounts and reports shall transfer \$35,000,000 from the state general fund to the state water plan fund. ~~It is the intent of the legislature to provide for the transfer of \$35,000,000 from the state general fund to the state water plan fund on July 1, 2027.~~

(b) (1) ~~The state water plan fund shall continue to be appropriated and expended for the purposes prescribed in K.S.A. 82a-951, and amendments thereto, except that~~ If an appropriation is made for any fiscal year ~~as intended in~~ pursuant to subsection (a), on July 1, ~~2025, and July 1, 2026,~~ of such fiscal year or as soon thereafter on such dates as moneys are available:

(A) \$5,500,000 shall be transferred from the state water plan fund to the water technical assistance fund established in K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 82a-956, and amendments thereto; and

(B) \$12,500,000 shall be transferred from the state water plan fund to the water projects grant fund established in K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 82a-957, and amendments thereto.

(2) The provisions of this section shall expire on July 1, ~~2028~~ 2031. On July 1, ~~2028~~ 2031, the director of accounts and reports shall transfer all moneys in the water technical assistance fund and the water projects grant fund to the state water plan fund, and all liabilities of

the water technical assistance fund and the water projects grant fund shall be imposed upon the state water plan fund. On July 1, ~~2028~~ 2031, the water technical assistance fund and the water projects grant fund shall be abolished.

(c) (1) (A) Notwithstanding any restrictions in K.S.A. 82a-951, and amendments thereto, the Kansas water authority may recommend to the legislature the appropriation of up to 10% of the unencumbered balance of the state water plan fund to be used to supplement salaries of existing state agency full-time equivalent employees and for funding new full-time equivalent positions created to implement the state water plan. Moneys from such appropriation may be used to supplement existing positions, but such moneys shall not be used to replace state general fund moneys, any fee fund moneys or other funding for positions existing on July 1, 2023.

(B) Eligible full-time equivalent positions that moneys may be used for pursuant to this paragraph include engineers, geologists, hydrologists, environmental scientists, attorneys, resource planners, grant specialists and any other similar positions.

(2) If at least two conservation districts present a joint proposal to the Kansas water authority for a position or positions to provide shared services to all districts involved in such proposal, the Kansas water authority may recommend that moneys be used to supplement the salary or salaries of such position or positions pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) The Kansas water authority shall encourage funding requests from state and local entities that cooperate with qualified nonprofit entities on projects that provide a direct benefit to water quantity and quality, including water infrastructures that are both natural and constructed, and include matching funds from non-state sources.

(4) The Kansas water authority may direct the Kansas water office to provide funding pursuant to K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 82a-956 or 82a-957, and amendments thereto, for the improvement of water infrastructure in an unincorporated area related to or serving a national

park site or state historic site if the request for funding is made by a nonprofit organization or state agency that is willing to administer the moneys and oversee the project, and the Kansas water authority deems such applicant capable of successfully managing the project. Upon receipt of such a request, the Kansas water office may award moneys in any fiscal year prior to July 1, 2028, with such awarding of moneys to be made at the discretion of the Kansas water office.

(5) The Kansas water authority shall encourage the creation of grant programs for stockwatering conservation projects. Such grant programs shall prioritize the use of fees collected pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-954(a)(3), and amendments thereto.

(d) All reporting requirements established in K.S.A. 82a-951, and amendments thereto, shall continue and such reporting requirements shall apply to the water technical assistance fund established in K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 82a-956, and amendments thereto, and the water projects grant fund established in K.S.A. 2025 Supp. 82a-957, and amendments thereto.";

On page 2, in line 43, by striking "50%" and inserting "60%";

On page 3, in line 2, by striking "8,000" and inserting "2,000"; in line 6, by striking "8,000" and inserting "2,000"; in line 7, by striking all after "(e)"; by striking all in lines 8 through 11; in line 12, by striking "(f)"; in line 14, by striking all after "health"; by striking all in line 15; in line 16, by striking "population"; in line 25, by striking "(i)" and inserting "(h)"; in line 36, by striking all after "(i)"; in line 37, by striking all before "eligible"; in line 43, by striking "5" and inserting "10";

And by redesignating subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs and clauses accordingly;

On page 4, in line 1, after "The" by inserting "proposed"; also in line 1, by striking "an imminent" and inserting "a"; in line 2, after "health" by inserting ", including, but not limited to, violations of K.S.A. 65-162a et seq., and amendments thereto, or conditions that have caused or may lead to a violation of state or federal drinking water standards"; in line 3, by striking

"*Responsible management of*"; in line 4, by striking all after "shall"; by striking all in lines 5 through 11; in line 12, by striking all before the period and inserting "provide relevant information concerning the municipality's finances to demonstrate the need for project funding. Relevant factors shall include, but are not limited to, demographic or community economic information that would affect the municipality's ability to pay for the proposed project without grant funding pursuant to this section"; in line 13, by striking all after "(C)"; by striking all in line 14; in line 15, by striking all before the period and inserting "*Regional cooperation*. The municipality is cooperating with other municipalities and regional entities or can demonstrate how the proposed project would improve the regional water supply"; in line 16, after "Municipalities" by inserting "shall provide information concerning the efforts of any such municipality to find other available funding sources for the proposed project or why obtaining such funding is not feasible. Applicants"; also in line 16, after "provide" by inserting "some level of"; in line 17, after "funding" by inserting "or in-kind contributions"; by striking all in lines 18 and 19; in line 20, by striking all before the period and inserting "Relevant factors shall include, but not be limited to, the size of such contribution relative to the applicant's request and such applicant's ability to contribute"; in line 21, by striking "project"; in line 22, by striking all before the first "for" and inserting "proposed project's importance"; also in line 22, after "of" by inserting "the community, new residential housing projects,"; in line 26, by striking all after "(F)"; by striking all in lines 27 through 33; in line 34, by striking "(G)" and inserting "*Conservation and*"; in line 35, by striking "improved" and inserting "how the proposed project supports conservation or would otherwise improve the municipality's"; following line 36, by inserting:

"(G) *Emergent issues*. The municipality can demonstrate how the proposed project addresses emergency circumstances that the community is facing or will be facing related to

insufficient access to water-related infrastructure or resources.";

On page 7, in line 23, by striking all after "(h)"; by striking all in lines 24 through 28; in line 29, by striking "(i)"; in line 31, by striking all after "health"; by striking all in line 32; in line 33, by striking "population";

On page 8, in line 1, by striking "5" and inserting "10"; in line 2, after "The" by inserting "proposed"; also in line 2, by striking "an imminent" and inserting "a"; in line 3, after "health" by inserting ", including, but not limited to, violations of K.S.A. 65-162a et seq., and amendments thereto, or conditions that have caused or may lead to a violation of state or federal drinking water standards"; in line 4, by striking "*Responsible management of*"; in line 5, by striking all after "shall"; by striking all in lines 6 through 12; in line 13, by striking all before the period and inserting "provide relevant information concerning the municipality's finances to demonstrate the need for project funding. Relevant factors shall include, but are not limited to, demographic or community economic information that would affect the municipality's ability to pay for the proposed project without grant funding pursuant to this section"; in line 14, by striking all after "(C)"; by striking all in line 15; in line 16, by striking all before the period and inserting "*Regional cooperation*. The municipality is cooperating with other municipalities and regional entities or can demonstrate how the proposed project would improve the regional water supply"; in line 17, after "Municipalities" by inserting "shall provide information concerning the efforts of any such municipality to find other available funding sources for the proposed project or why obtaining such funding is not feasible. Applicants"; also in line 17, after "provide" by inserting "some level of"; in line 18, after "funding" by inserting "or in-kind contributions"; by striking all in lines 19 and 20; in line 21, by striking all before the period and inserting "Relevant factors shall include, but not be limited to, the size of such contribution relative to the applicant's request and such applicant's ability to contribute"; in line 23, by striking "that"; in line 24, by striking

"project is necessary" and inserting "proposed project's importance"; also in line 24, after "of" by inserting "the community, new residential housing projects,"; in line 28, by striking all after "(F)"; by striking all in lines 29 through 34; in line 35, by striking "(G)" and inserting "*Conservation and*"; in line 36, by striking "improved" and inserting "how the proposed project supports conservation or would otherwise improve the municipality's"; following line 37, by inserting:

"(G) *Emergent issues*. The municipality can demonstrate how the proposed project addresses emergency circumstances that the community is facing or will be facing related to insufficient access to water-related infrastructure or resources.";

And by redesignating subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs and clauses accordingly;

On page 9, in line 23, after "Supp." by inserting "82a-955,";

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 2, after the semicolon by inserting "extending the current expiration date of such funds; transferring moneys from the state general fund to the state water plan fund; requiring the Kansas water office to transfer appropriations for the water technical assistance fund and the water projects grant fund;"; in line 3, by striking all after the semicolon; by striking all in lines 4 and 5; in line 6, by striking all before "prohibiting"; in line 12, after "Supp." by inserting "82a-955,"; and the bill be passed as amended.

Chairperson