

HOUSE BILL No. 2172

By Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Requested by Representative Rahjes

1-30

1 AN ACT concerning water; establishing the water program task force to
2 evaluate the state's water program and funding for such program;
3 requiring a report thereon to the legislature and the governor.
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the water program task
7 force. The task force shall consist of:

8 (1) The following 29 voting members:

9 (A) The chair of the house of representatives committee on water;

10 (B) the chair of the house of representatives committee on agriculture
11 and natural resources;

12 (C) the chair of the house of representatives committee on
13 appropriations;

14 (D) the chair of the senate committee on agriculture and natural
15 resources;

16 (E) the chair of the senate committee on ways and means;

17 (F) the ranking minority member of the house of representatives
18 committee on water;

19 (G) the ranking minority member of the senate agriculture and natural
20 resources committee;

21 (H) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
22 speaker of the house of representatives;

23 (I) one Kansas resident appointed by the speaker of the house of
24 representatives;

25 (J) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
26 speaker pro tem;

27 (K) one Kansas resident appointed by the speaker pro tem;

28 (L) one member of the house of representatives appointed by the
29 house minority leader;

30 (M) one Kansas resident appointed by the house minority leader;

31 (N) one member of the senate appointed by the president of the
32 senate;

33 (O) one Kansas resident appointed by the president of the senate;

34 (P) one member of the senate appointed by the vice president of the
35 senate;

- 1 (Q) one Kansas resident appointed by the vice president of the senate;
2 (R) one member of the senate appointed by the senate minority
3 leader;
4 (S) one Kansas resident appointed by the senate minority leader;
5 (T) one member appointed by the Kansas farm bureau;
6 (U) one member appointed by the Kansas groundwater management
7 districts association;
8 (V) one member of a Kansas agricultural commodity organization
9 appointed by the secretary of agriculture;
10 (W) one member appointed by the Kansas livestock association;
11 (X) one member appointed by Kansas municipal utilities;
12 (Y) one member appointed by the Kansas association of counties;
13 (Z) one member appointed by the Kansas rural water district
14 association;
15 (AA) two members appointed by the Kansas chamber of commerce.
16 One such appointment shall represent a business that is reliant on
17 groundwater, and one such appointment shall represent business that is
18 reliant on surface water; and
19 (BB) one member appointed by Kansans for conservation; and
20 (2) the following 10 nonvoting ex officio members:
21 (A) The secretary of agriculture or the secretary's designee;
22 (B) the director of the division of environment of the Kansas
23 department of health and environment or the director's designee;
24 (C) the director of the Kansas water office or the director's designee;
25 (D) the secretary of the department of revenue or the secretary's
26 designee;
27 (E) the director of the Kansas geological survey or the director's
28 designee;
29 (F) the chairperson of the state corporation commission or the
30 chairperson's designee;
31 (G) the director of the Kansas water institute or the director's
32 designee;
33 (H) the secretary of wildlife and parks or the secretary's designee;
34 (I) the director of the Kansas biological survey or the director's
35 designee and
36 (J) the chief engineer of the Kansas department of agriculture division
37 of water resources or the chief engineer's designee.
38 (b) Each member of the task force who is not a member of the
39 legislature shall represent at least one of the following stakeholders:
40 (1) A Kansas employer with a vested water right;
41 (2) a commercial user of a municipal or industrial water right;
42 (3) an agricultural producer;
43 (4) an economic development organization;

- 1 (5) a water utility;
- 2 (6) a resident Kansas Indian tribe, Pottawatomie, Kickapoo, Iowa or
3 Sac and Fox;
- 4 (7) a rural water district;
- 5 (8) a state conservation district;
- 6 (9) an organization that focuses on environmental or wildlife
7 protection or conservation;
- 8 (10) a local water management entity, including, but not limited to, a
9 groundwater management district, water assurance district or ditch district;
- 10 (11) the Kansas agricultural banking or appraisal industry;
- 11 (12) a student at a state educational institution engaged in a course of
12 study related to water;
- 13 (13) a Kansas municipality;
- 14 (14) a provider of natural resources education;
- 15 (15) the Kansas agricultural commodity associations;
- 16 (16) the Kansas water authority or regional advisory committee;
- 17 (17) the Kansas livestock industry; or
- 18 (18) the Kansas grain and feed industry.
- 19 (c) (1) Members of the task force shall be residents of Kansas. The
20 task force shall consist of at least two members from all five conservation
21 regions of the state. Not more than two members of the task force shall
22 represent the same stakeholder enumerated in subsection (b).
- 23 (2) The speaker of the house of representatives and the president of
24 the senate shall ensure that the requirements of paragraph (1) are met.
- 25 (d) Members of the task force shall be appointed by April 30, 2025.
26 Any vacancy in the membership of the task force shall be filled by
27 appointment in the same manner prescribed by this section for the original
28 appointment.
- 29 (e) The speaker of the house of representatives shall select one
30 member of the task force who is a member of the house of representatives
31 to serve as co-chairperson of the task force. The president of the senate
32 shall select one member of the task force who is a member of the senate to
33 serve as co-chairperson of the task force.
- 34 (f) (1) The task force may meet at any time and at any place within
35 the state upon the call of either co-chairperson.
- 36 (2) A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum of the
37 task force. All actions of the task force may be taken by a majority of
38 members present when there is a quorum.
- 39 (3) If approved by the legislative coordinating council, members of
40 the task force attending meetings authorized by the task force shall be paid
41 amounts for expenses, mileage and subsistence as provided in K.S.A. 75-
42 3223(e), and amendments thereto.
- 43 (4) The staff of the office of revisor of statutes, the legislative

1 research department and the division of legislative administrative services
2 shall provide such assistance as may be requested by the task force.

3 (g) The water program task force shall:

4 (1) Evaluate major risks to the quality and quantity of the state's
5 water supply, including any impact on current and future economic growth
6 and population stability;

7 (2) steps that the state must take to define and achieve an ongoing,
8 multigenerational promise of water for Kansans; and

9 (3) evaluate current funding for water in the state and determine
10 whether such funding is sufficient to address the water issues included in
11 the state water plan, including the state's current and future water
12 infrastructure needs.

13 (h) The task force shall prepare and submit a report to the legislature
14 and the governor on or before January 31, 2026. Such report shall include
15 recommendations on:

16 (1) The water program's long-term structure to address the state's
17 current and future water needs, including, but not limited to:

18 (A) The roles and responsibilities of the state, municipalities and
19 regional entities;

20 (B) how the program's investments and successes should be
21 evaluated, including gathering any stakeholder input; and

22 (C) criteria to determine program investments, including geographic
23 diversity of such investments; and

24 (2) funding for the water program, including, but not limited to:

25 (A) New dedicated moneys or investments for the state water plan
26 fund;

27 (B) changes to any existing fees or moneys dedicated to the state
28 water plan fund; and

29 (C) any additional funding sources or tools necessary to ensure that
30 the financial resources are adequate to address the state's water issues.

31 (i) This section shall expire on July 1, 2027.

32 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
33 publication in the Kansas register.