

Agriculture-Related Advisory Boards and Technical Changes; HB 2503

HB 2503 amends statutes regarding various boards and advisory bodies relating to agriculture. The bill also makes numerous technical changes to the existing statutes, resulting from 2011 Executive Reorganization Order No. 40 (ERO No. 40), which transferred the Animal Health Department and the State Conservation Commission to the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA).

Agriculture-Related Advisory Boards and Advisory Bodies

The bill modifies the law with respect to the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board to remove the requirement that members be subject to Senate confirmation.

Other amendments modify the statutes relating to the Grape and Wine Industry Advisory Council (Advisory Council) and provide that there be no fewer than nine members. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture; the Secretary of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; and the Director of Alcoholic Beverage Control will be *ex officio* members on the Advisory Council. Further, the bill requires the KDA to provide administrative assistance to the Advisory Council until the Secretary of Agriculture determines the Advisory Council has the resources to provide its own staffing. Provisions relating to the Advisory Council expire on July 1, 2016.

The bill also renames the Agriculture Products Development Advisory Board as the Agriculture Marketing and Promotions Advisory Board (Board). Members will be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture rather than by the Governor. The Board will consist of not less than nine members and no more than 12 members who represent various agricultural sectors outlined in the bill. The Board will elect its own chairperson, vice-chairperson, and any other officers.

Finally, the bill repeals statutes relating to the Dairy Marketing Advisory Board, which had as its main duty the study and evaluation of the need for establishing a statewide milk marketing order.

Technical Changes to Existing Statutes

The bill makes numerous technical changes to the existing statutes which pertain to the previous Animal Health Department and the former Livestock Commissioner to conform to 2011 ERO No. 40, which transferred the Animal Health Department to the KDA and created the Division of Animal Health within the agency.

Similar changes are made to the statutes relating to the previous State Conservation Commission, to conform to its transfer to the KDA and the creation of the Division of Conservation within the agency. Additional statutory amendments reflect the transfer of the prior Agriculture Marketing Division of the Department of Commerce to the KDA. The former Agriculture Marketing Division is now known as the Agriculture Marketing and Promotions Program within the KDA.