

SESSION OF 2011

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1605**

As Recommended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SCR 1605 would urge the United States Congress to support the President's budget request of \$150 million to ensure the timely construction and operations of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) to be located in Manhattan. The resolution would encourage the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration to move quickly to sell Plum Island and then direct the proceeds to be used to help fund the NBAF.

The resolution also would urge the construction and operations of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility be accelerated to eliminate the capability gap outlined in a 2004 report by the Department of Homeland Security and that the construction of the facility would provide the research, testing and evaluation necessary to secure the nation's food supply and agricultural economy.

The resolution would be sent to President Obama and Vice-President Biden, Secretary Napolitano of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Vilsack of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Secretary Sebelius of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate homeland security appropriations subcommittees, the Kansas congressional delegation and Governor Sam Brownback.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Background

In January of 2009, the Department of Homeland Security chose Manhattan as its choice for the location of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. The proposed site for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) is on the campus of Kansas State University, immediately adjacent to the Biosecurity Research Institute (BRI) and to the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Since 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has reported on the defined capability gap in integrated biosafety research, development, testing and evaluation of agricultural and public health threats posed by foreign animal, emerging and zoonotic diseases in large livestock and has recommended the construction of this facility in order to eliminate the gap in integrated biosafety.