

(A) Accepting, purchasing or otherwise acquiring conservation easements, as defined in K.S.A. 58-3810, and amendments thereto, for the purpose of protecting compensatory mitigation sites;

(B) contracting with engineering consultants, surveyors and construction contractors for the purpose of restoration, establishment and enhancement of natural resources; and

(C) establishing fees for the administration of compensatory mitigation credits, accepting such fees from state and local government agencies, and assuming responsibility to ensure the mitigation projects are in existence, as approved by the department, for the length of term of the easement for which fees have been accepted.

(g) There is hereby established in the state treasury the conservation fund, which shall be administered by the department of agriculture. All expenditures from the conservation fund shall be for conservation. All expenditures from the conservation fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants approved by the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of agriculture or the designee of the secretary. The secretary of agriculture shall remit all moneys received by or for the secretary under this section to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the conservation fund.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 2-1904 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

(h) All costs associated with compensatory mitigation, including, but not limited to, the costs of any litigation or civil fines or penalties, shall be paid by the watershed district for which the Kansas department of agriculture division of conservation holds the conservation easement.

(i) (1) Except as provided in subsection (i)(2), the Kansas department of agriculture shall not expend moneys appropriated from the state general fund or from any special revenue fund or funds for the purpose of accepting, purchasing or otherwise acquiring conservation easements.

(2) The Kansas department of agriculture may expend moneys in the conservation fund established by this section for the purpose of accepting, purchasing or otherwise acquiring conservation easements.

(j) The Kansas department of agriculture division of conservation shall not accept, purchase or otherwise acquire any conservation easement other than for the purposes of this section.