

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER:

The Committee on **Agriculture and Natural Resources** recommends **SB 52**, as amended by Senate Committee, be amended on page 1, in line 23, by striking all after "(2)"; in line 24, by striking all before "allow";

On page 2, following line 4, by inserting:

"Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 82a-708c is hereby amended to read as follows: 82a-708c.

(a) A term permit is a permit to appropriate water for a limited specified period of time in excess of six months. At the end of the specified time, or any authorized extension approved by the chief engineer, the permit shall be automatically dismissed, and any priority it may have had shall be forfeited. No water right shall be perfected pursuant to a term permit.

(b) Each application for a term permit to appropriate water shall be made on a form prescribed by the chief engineer and shall be accompanied by an application fee fixed by this section for the appropriate category of acre feet in accordance with the following:

Acre Feet.....	Fee
0 to 100.....	\$200
101 to 320.....	\$300
More than 320.....	\$300 + \$20
	for each additional 100
	acre feet or any part thereof

On and after July 1, 2018, the application fee shall be set forth in the schedule below:

Acre Feet	Fee
0 to 100.....	\$100
101 to 320.....	\$100
More than 320.....	\$150 + \$10
	for each additional 100
	acre feet or any part thereof

The chief engineer shall render a decision on such term permit applications within 150 days of receiving a complete application except when the application cannot be processed due to the standards established in K.A.R. 5-3-4c. Upon failure to render a decision within 180 days of receipt of a complete application, the application fee is subject to refund upon request.

(c) Each application for a term permit to appropriate water for storage, except applications for permits for domestic use, shall be accompanied by an application fee fixed by this section for the appropriate category of storage-acre feet in accordance with the following:

Storage-Acre Feet	Fee
0 to 250.....	\$200
More than 250.....	\$200 + \$20 for each additional 250 acre feet or any part thereof

On and after July 1, 2018, the application fee shall be set forth in the schedule below:

Storage-Acre Feet	Fee
0 to 250.....	\$100
More than 250.....	\$100 + \$10 for each additional 250 acre feet or any part thereof

The chief engineer shall render a decision on such term permit applications within 150 days of receiving a complete application except when the application cannot be processed due to the standards established in K.A.R. 5-3-4c. Upon failure to render a decision within 180 days of receipt of a complete application, the application fee is subject to refund upon request.

(d) Each application for a term permit pursuant to K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 82a-736, and amendments thereto, shall be accompanied by an application fee established by rules and regulations adopted by the chief engineer in an amount not to exceed \$400 for the five-year period covered by the permit.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of K.S.A. 82a-714, and amendments thereto, the applicant is not required to file a notice of completion of diversion works nor pay a field

inspection fee. The chief engineer shall not conduct a field inspection of the diversion works required by statute for purposes of certification nor issue a certificate of appropriation for a term permit.

(f) A request to extend the term of a term permit in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the chief engineer shall be accompanied by the same filing fee applicable to other requests for extensions of time as set forth in K.S.A. 82a-714, and amendments thereto.

(g) An application to change the place of use, point of diversion, use made of water, or any combination thereof, pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-708b, and amendments thereto, shall not be approved for a term permit, except a change in place of use for a term permit approved pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-736, and amendments thereto, for irrigation use may be approved by the chief engineer for an increase of up to 10 acres or 10% of the authorized place of use whichever is less.

(h) The chief engineer shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate and administer the provisions of this section.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 82a-736 is hereby amended to read as follows: 82a-736. (a) It is hereby recognized that an opportunity exists to improve water management by enabling multi-year flexibility in the use of water authorized to be diverted under a groundwater water right, provided, that such flexibility neither impairs existing water rights, nor increases the total amount of water diverted, so that such flexibility has no long-term negative effect on the source of supply. It is therefore declared necessary and advisable to permit the establishment of multi-year flex accounts for groundwater water rights, together with commensurate protections for existing water rights and their source of supply.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Base water right" means a water right under which an applicant applies to the chief

engineer to establish a multi-year flex account and where all of the following conditions exist:

(A) The authorized source of supply is groundwater; and

(B) the water right has not been the subject of a change approval to implement the provisions of K.A.R. 5-5-9(a)(2), K.A.R. 5-5-11(b)(2) or K.A.R. 5-5-11(b)(3), in effect upon the effective date of this act.

(2) "Multi-year flex account" means a term permit which suspends a base water right during its term, except when the term permit may be no longer exercised because of an order of the chief engineer, and is subject to the terms and conditions as provided in subsection (e).

(3) "Base average usage" means: (A) The average amount of water actually diverted for a beneficial use under the base water right during calendar years 2000 through 2009, excluding any amount diverted in any such year that exceeded the maximum annual quantity of water authorized by the base water right; or (B) if the holder of the base water right shows to the satisfaction of the chief engineer that water conservation reduced water use under the base water right during calendar years 2000 through 2009, then the average amount of water actually diverted for a beneficial use under the base water right during the five calendar years immediately before the calendar year when water conservation began, excluding any amount used in any such year that exceeded the amount authorized by the base water right.

(4) "Chief engineer" means the chief engineer of the division of water resources of the department of agriculture.

(5) "Flex account acreage" means the maximum number of acres lawfully irrigated during a calendar year when no term, condition or limitation of the base water right has been violated and either of the following conditions is met:

(A) The calendar year is 2000 through 2009; or

(B) if water conservation reduced water use under the base water right during calendar

years 2000 through 2009, the calendar year is a year within the five calendar years immediately prior to the calendar year when water conservation began.

(6) "Net irrigation requirement" means the net irrigation requirement for 50% chance rainfall of the county that corresponds with the location of the authorized place of use of the base water right as provided in K.A.R. 5-5-12, on the effective date of this act.

(c) (1) Any holder of a base water right that has not been deposited or placed in a safe deposit account in a chartered water bank may establish a multi-year flex account where the holder may deposit, in advance, the authorized quantity of water from such water right for any five consecutive calendar years, subject to all of the following:

(A) The water right must be vested or shall have been issued a certificate of appropriation;

(B) the withdrawal of water pursuant to the water right shall be properly and adequately metered;

(C) the water right is not deemed abandoned and is in compliance with the terms and conditions of its certificate of appropriation, all applicable provisions of law and orders of the chief engineer;

(D) the amount of water deposited in the multi-year flex account shall not exceed the greatest of the following:

(i) 500% of the base average usage;

(ii) 500% of the product of the annual net irrigation requirement multiplied by the flex account acreage, multiplied by 110%, but not greater than five times the maximum annual quantity authorized by the base water right;~~or~~

(iii) if the authorized place of use is located wholly within the boundaries of a groundwater management district, an amount that shall not increase the long-term average use of

the groundwater right as specified by rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to ~~subsection (e)~~ of K.S.A. 82a-1028(o), and amendments thereto; ~~and or~~

(iv) pursuant to subparagraph (E), the amount computed in (i), (ii) or (iii) plus any deposited water remaining in a multi-year flex account up to 100% of the base average usage;

(E) any deposited water remaining in a multi-year flex account up to 100% of the base average usage may be added to the deposit amount calculated in subparagraph (D) if the base water right is enrolled in another multi-year flex account during the calendar year in which the existing multi-year flex account expires. The total amount of water deposited in any multi-year flex account shall not exceed 500% of the authorized quantity of the base water right; and

(F) notwithstanding any other provisions of this subsection, except when the base water right is suspended due to the issuance of a two-year term permit in a designated drought emergency area for 2011 and 2012, the quantity of water deposited into a multi-year flex account shall be reduced by the quantity of water used in excess of the maximum annual quantity of the base water right during 2011 if the application for a multi-year flex account is filed with the chief engineer on or before July 15, 2012.

(2) The provisions of K.A.R. 5-5-11 are limited to changes in annual authorized quantity and shall not apply to this subsection.

(d) The chief engineer shall implement a program providing for the issuance of term permits to holders of groundwater water rights who have established flex accounts in accordance with this section. Such term permits shall authorize the use of water in a flex account at any time during the five consecutive calendar years for which the application for the term permit authorizing a multi-year flex account is made, without annual limits on such use.

(e) Term permits provided for by this section shall be subject to the following:

(1) A separate term permit shall be required for each point of diversion authorized by

the base water right.

(2) The quantity of water authorized for diversion shall be limited to the amount deposited pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(D).

(3) The rate of diversion for each point of diversion authorized under the term permit shall not exceed the rate of diversion for each point of diversion authorized under the base water right.

(4) The authorized place of use shall be the place of use or a subdivision of the place of use for the base water right.

(5) The point of diversion authorized by the term permit shall be specified by referencing one point of diversion authorized by the base water right at the time the multi-year flex account term permit application is filed with the chief engineer or at the time any approvals changing such referenced point of diversion of the base water right are approved during the multi-year flex account period. For a base water right with multiple points of diversion, each point of diversion authorized by a term permit shall receive a specific assignment of a maximum authorized quantity of water, assigned proportionately to the authorized annual quantities of the respective points of diversion under the base water right.

(6) The chief engineer may establish, by rules and regulations, criteria for such term permits.

(7) Except as explicitly provided for by this section, such term permits shall be subject to all provisions of the Kansas water appropriation act, and rules and regulations adopted under such act, and nothing in this section shall authorize impairment of any vested right or prior appropriation right by the exercise of such term permit.

(f) An application for a multi-year flex account shall be filed with the chief engineer on or before October 1 of the first year of the multi-year flex account term for which the application

is being made.

(g) All costs of administration of this section shall be paid from fees for term permits provided for by this section. Any appropriation or transfer from any fund other than the water appropriation certification fund for the purpose of paying such costs shall be repaid to the fund from which such appropriation or transfer is made. At the time of repayment, the secretary of agriculture shall certify to the director of accounts and reports the amount to be repaid and the fund to be repaid. Upon receipt of such certification, the director of accounts and reports shall promptly transfer the amount certified to the specified fund.

(h) The fee for a multi-year flex account term permit shall be the same as specified for other term permits in K.S.A. 82a-708c, and amendments thereto, except as follows:

(1) If the base water right is currently suspended due to the issuance of a two-year term permit in a designated drought emergency area for 2011 and 2012, then a holder of such term permit shall be subject to a \$200 application fee for a multi-year flex account term permit if the application is filed on or before July 15, 2012; or

(2) if water use under the authority of the base water right exceeded the maximum annual quantity authorized by the base water right during 2011 and the holder of the base water right files an application for approval of a multi-year flex account term permit on or before July 15, 2012, then the application fee shall be \$600.

(i) The chief engineer shall have full authority pursuant to K.S.A. 82a-706c, and amendments thereto, to require any additional measuring devices and any additional reporting of water use for term permits issued pursuant to this section. Failure to comply with any measuring or reporting requirement may result in a penalty, up to and including the revocation of the term permit and the suspension of the base water right for the duration of the term permit period.

(j) The chief engineer shall submit a written report on the implementation of this

section to the house standing committee on agriculture and natural resources and the senate standing committee on natural resources on or before February 1 of each year.

(k) This section shall be part of and supplemental to the Kansas water appropriation act.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 82a-1041 is hereby amended to read as follows: 82a-1041.

(a) Whenever a groundwater management district recommends the approval of a local enhanced management plan within the district to address any of the conditions set forth in ~~subsections (a) through (d)~~ of K.S.A. 82a-1036 (a) through (d), and amendments thereto, the chief engineer shall review the local enhanced management plan submitted by the groundwater management district.

The chief engineer's review shall be limited to whether the plan:

(1) Proposes clear geographic boundaries;

(2) pertains to an area wholly within the groundwater management district;

(3) proposes goals and corrective control provisions as provided in subsection (f) adequate to meet the stated goals;

(4) gives due consideration to water users who already have implemented reductions in water use resulting in voluntary conservation measures;

(5) includes a compliance monitoring and enforcement element; and

~~(5)-(6)~~ is consistent with state law.

If, based on such review, the chief engineer finds that the local enhanced management plan is acceptable for consideration, the chief engineer shall initiate, as soon as practicable thereafter, proceedings to designate a local enhanced management area.

(b) In any case where proceedings to designate a local enhanced management area are initiated, the chief engineer shall conduct an initial public hearing on the question of designating such an area as a local enhanced management area according to the local enhanced management plan. The initial public hearing shall resolve the following findings of fact:

(1) Whether one or more of the circumstances specified in ~~subsection (a) through (d)~~ of K.S.A. 82a-1036(a) through (d), and amendments thereto, exist;

(2) whether the public interest of K.S.A. 82a-1020, and amendments thereto, requires that one or more corrective control provisions be adopted; and

(3) whether the geographic boundaries are reasonable.

The chief engineer shall conduct a subsequent hearing or hearings only if the initial public hearing is favorable on all three issues of fact and the expansion of geographic boundaries is not recommended. At least 30 days prior to the date set for any hearing, written notice of such hearing shall be given to every person holding a water right of record within the area in question and by one publication in any newspaper of general circulation within the area in question. The notice shall state the question and shall denote the time and place of the hearing. At every such hearing, documentary and oral evidence shall be taken and a complete record of the same shall be kept.

(c) The subject matter of the hearing or hearings set forth in subsection (b) shall be limited to the local enhanced management plan that the chief engineer previously reviewed pursuant to subsection (a) and set for hearing.

(d) Within 120 days of the conclusion of the final public hearing set forth in subsections (b) and (c), the chief engineer shall issue an order of decision:

(1) Accepting the local enhanced management plan as sufficient to address any of the conditions set forth in ~~subsections (a) through (d)~~ of K.S.A. 82a-1036(a) through (d), and amendments thereto;

(2) rejecting the local enhanced management plan as insufficient to address any of the conditions set forth in ~~subsections (a) through (d)~~ of K.S.A. 82a-1036(a) through (d), and amendments thereto;

(3) returning the local enhanced management plan to the groundwater management district, giving reasons for the return and providing the district with the opportunity to resubmit a revised plan for public hearing within 90 days of the return of the deficient plan; or

(4) returning the local enhanced management plan to the groundwater management district and proposing modifications to the plan, based on testimony at the hearing or hearings, that will improve the administration of the plan, but will not impose reductions in groundwater withdrawals that exceed those contained in the plan. If the groundwater management district approves of the modifications proposed by the chief engineer, the district shall notify the chief engineer within 90 days of receipt of return of the plan. Upon receipt of the groundwater management district's approval of the modifications, the chief engineer shall accept the modified local management plan. If the groundwater management district does not approve of the modifications proposed by the chief engineer, the local management plan shall not be accepted.

(e) In any case where the chief engineer issues an order of decision accepting the local enhanced management plan pursuant to subsection (d), the chief engineer, within a reasonable time, shall issue an order of designation that designates the area in question as a local enhanced management area.

(f) The order of designation shall define the boundaries of the local enhanced management area and shall indicate the circumstances upon which the findings of the chief engineer are made. The order of designation may include any of the following corrective control provisions set forth in the local enhanced management plan:

(1) Closing the local enhanced management area to any further appropriation of groundwater. In which event, the chief engineer shall thereafter refuse to accept any application for a permit to appropriate groundwater located within such area;

(2) determining the permissible total withdrawal of groundwater in the local enhanced

management area each day, month or year, and, insofar as may be reasonably done, the chief engineer shall apportion such permissible total withdrawal among the valid groundwater right holders in such area in accordance with the relative dates of priority of such rights;

(3) reducing the permissible withdrawal of groundwater by any one or more appropriators thereof, or by wells in the local enhanced management area;

(4) requiring and specifying a system of rotation of groundwater use in the local enhanced management area; or

(5) any other provisions making such additional requirements as are necessary to protect the public interest.

The chief engineer is hereby authorized to delegate the enforcement of any corrective control provisions ordered for a local enhanced management area to the groundwater management district in which that area is located, upon written request by the district.

(g) The order of designation shall follow, insofar as may be reasonably done, the geographical boundaries recommended by the local enhanced management plan.

(h) Except as provided in subsection (f), the order of designation of a local enhanced management area shall be in full force and effect from the date of its entry in the records of the chief engineer's office unless and until its operation shall be stayed by an appeal from an order entered on review of the chief engineer's order pursuant to K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 82a-1901, and amendments thereto, and in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas judicial review act. The chief engineer upon request shall deliver a copy of such order to any interested person who is affected by such order and shall file a copy of the same with the register of deeds of any county within which any part of the local enhanced management area lies.

(i) If the holder of a groundwater right within the local enhanced management area applies for review of the order of designation pursuant to K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 82a-1901, and

amendments thereto, the provisions of the order with respect to the inclusion of the holder's water right within the area may be stayed in accordance with the Kansas administrative procedure act.

(j) Unless otherwise specified in the proposed enhanced management plan and included in the order of designation, a public hearing to review the designation of a local enhanced management area shall be conducted by the chief engineer within seven years after the order of designation is final. A subsequent review of the designation shall occur within 10 years after the previous public review hearing or more frequently as determined by the chief engineer. Upon the request of a petition signed by at least 10% of the affected water users in a local enhanced management area, a public review hearing to review the designation shall be conducted by the chief engineer. This requested public review hearing shall not be conducted more frequently than every four years.

(k) The chief engineer shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate and administer the provisions of this section.

(l) The provisions of this section shall be part of and supplemental to the provisions of K.S.A. 82a-1020 through K.S.A. 82a-1040, and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 5. (a) The chief engineer shall give due consideration to water management or conservation measures previously implemented by a water right holder when implementing any further limitations on a water right pursuant to any program established or implemented on and after July 1, 2015. The chief engineer shall take into account reductions in water use, changes in water management practices and other measures undertaken by such water right holder.

(b) This section shall be part of and supplemental to the Kansas water appropriation act.";

Also on page 2, in line 5, by striking "is" and inserting "and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 82a-708c, 82a-736 and 82a-1041 are";

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 1, by striking "related" and inserting "relating"; in line 2, after "engineer;" by inserting "multi-year flex accounts; local enhanced management areas;"; also in line 2, after "82a-706b" by inserting "and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 82a-708c, 82a-736 and 82a-1041"; in line 3, by striking "section" and inserting "sections"; and the bill be passed as amended.

_____Chairperson