

**HOUSE BILL No. 2272**

By Committee on Water and Environment

2-3

1 AN ACT concerning water; creating the Kansas water collaborative.

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

4 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas water  
5 collaborative. The collaborative shall consist of the following 15 members:

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(1) The director of the Kansas water office;

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(2) the director of the Kansas biological survey;

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(3) the director of the Kansas geological survey;

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(4) one member from the division of water resources of the  
10 department of agriculture designated by the secretary of agriculture;

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(5) one member from the conservation division of the department of  
12 agriculture designated by the secretary of agriculture;

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(6) one member from a regional advisory committee designated by  
14 the director of the Kansas water office;

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(7) one member from the division of environment designated by the  
16 secretary of health and environment;

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(8) one member from the Kansas department of wildlife, parks and  
18 tourism designated by the secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism;

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(9) the state forester of the Kansas forest service;

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(10) one member from the college of agriculture designated by the  
21 dean of the college of agriculture at Kansas state university;

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(11) one member from the college of engineering designated by the  
23 dean of the college of engineering at Kansas state university;

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(12) one member appointed by the governor from the Kansas farm  
25 bureau to represent producer perspectives;

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(13) one member appointed by the governor from the league of  
27 Kansas municipalities to represent the perspectives of local governmental  
28 units;

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(14) one member appointed by the governor from the Kansas  
30 chamber of commerce to represent commercial and industrial perspectives;  
31 and

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(15) one member appointed by the governor from the Kansas nature  
33 conservancy to represent organized environmental perspectives.

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(b) The mission of the Kansas water collaborative is to ensure that  
35 state agencies maximize the value of agency actions for the state of Kansas  
36 and its water resources through collaborative strategic thinking, resource

1 allocation and data-driven decision making. To achieve this purpose, the  
2 mission of the collaborative shall be to:

3 (1) Promote coordinated data-driven decision making on state water  
4 policies and investments;

5 (2) facilitate inter-agency cooperation and collaboration;

6 (3) facilitate cooperation and collaboration with non-governmental  
7 entities and other government agencies;

8 (4) facilitate cooperation with federal agencies, including, but not  
9 limited to, the environmental protection agency, the United States army  
10 corps of engineers, the natural resources conservation service and the  
11 United States geological survey;

12 (5) collect, share, compile and analyze data collected by different  
13 agencies and entities;

14 (6) ensure that appropriate data is collected and shared between the  
15 participating agencies and entities;

16 (7) ensure that data is being properly analyzed;

17 (8) develop program and policy recommendations that facilitate  
18 collaboration among agencies and entities; and

19 (9) recommend policies and investments that the legislature and  
20 agencies should consider to secure the future of the water supply in  
21 Kansas.

22 (c) In addition to the mission of the Kansas water collaborative, the  
23 collaborative shall study and provide recommendations on any specific  
24 water priorities identified by the legislature. Additionally, the collaborative  
25 shall:

26 (1) Report and provide findings on the following surface water  
27 priorities:

28 (A) Determine why some reservoirs, municipal lakes and state lakes  
29 are filling with sediment at much higher rates than those served by  
30 watersheds only a few miles away;

31 (B) determine why some corps reservoirs, municipal lakes and state  
32 lakes are experiencing more severe water quality problems than those  
33 served by watersheds only a few miles away;

34 (C) study the cost effectiveness and performance effectiveness of  
35 existing programs to determine the answers to paragraphs (A) and (B) and  
36 current and alternative program options to address the problems;

37 (D) develop predictive models related to determining practices and  
38 environmental factors on a watershed basis. Such models should be  
39 controlled and nature-driven with the goal of ensuring that sufficient water  
40 storage capacity will be available to meet Kansans' needs for the next 100  
41 years; and

42 (E) investigate benefits of calling reserved storage into service and  
43 applying for storage pool increases to aid in water quality management,

1 drought protection and flood control.

2 (2) Report and provide findings on the following ground water  
3 priorities:

4 (A) Determine why some areas of the Ogallala aquifer have higher  
5 recharge rates than other areas located within a few miles;

6 (B) determine why some parts of the Ogallala aquifer are  
7 experiencing more intrusion of high salinity from other water sources;

8 (C) study the relationship between surface and alluvial water levels  
9 and water quality in the Kansas river basin;

10 (D) develop more accurate predictive models related to determining  
11 practices and environmental factors. Such models should be controlled and  
12 nature-driven with the goal of ensuring sufficient quantities and quality of  
13 water to meet human, livestock, crop and other needs for the next 100  
14 years; and

15 (E) develop program options to address current and future problems.

16 (d) The Kansas water collaborative shall be co-directed by the  
17 directors of the Kansas biological survey and the Kansas geological survey  
18 with the director of the Kansas water office serving as an adviser to the co-  
19 directors. The collaborative shall convene regular workshops, study  
20 sessions and meetings to ensure the mission of the collaborative is  
21 accomplished and to ensure completion of the water priorities identified by  
22 the legislature.

23 (e) The Kansas water collaborative may meet at any time and at any  
24 place within the state. A quorum shall be eight members. All actions of the  
25 collaborative shall be by motion adopted by a majority of those members  
26 present when there is a quorum.

27 (f) Members of the Kansas water collaborative shall not receive  
28 compensation, subsistence allowances, mileage or associated expenses  
29 from the state. Officers or employees of state agencies who serve on the  
30 collaborative shall be authorized to serve as members as part of their  
31 duties.

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