

Testimony to Senate Commerce Committee  
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SB242

February 14, 2007

Honorable Members of the Committee:

SB 242 was the result of requests from several people attempting to set up bioscience districts in the Kansas City area and especially a wet lab incubator project. It addresses several we think inadvertent deficiencies of the Kansas Bioscience Investment Acts of 2004. The bill makes three changes:

1. It allows municipalities to issue special obligation bonds in a bioscience district. Currently this only applies in a redevelopment district that was created by the municipality. Since the act retains the requirement that the approval of the Bioscience Authority is necessary in addition to the approval of the local government, we see no reason why this flexibility isn't granted.

2. It allows the bond proceeds to pay for all the personal property necessary or appropriate to create a wet lab facility in an incubator project in either type of district. Currently only certain items of equipment can be so financed and it is very expensive specialized equipment.

3. It clarifies that counties and school districts, which must get a prior notice of the creation of the district, only have the right to disapprove the creation of the district if their revenues could be adversely impacted. If the project would have no such impact on other taxing districts, no valid public purpose appears to be served by requiring their concurrence.

I would be happy to try to answer any questions.