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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Water
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 20, 2024
Subject: Bill Brief – HB 2695

HB 2695 allows a majority of eligible voters in a groundwater management district or an area for a proposed extension or reduction of a district to petition the Chief Engineer to extend or reduce territory in groundwater management district.

K.S.A. 82-1033 is a statute that allows a GMD board to petition the Chief Engineer to extend or reduce the territory of a district. K.S.A 82a-1033 requires that such petition to the Chief Engineer includes a description of the territory to be annexed or removed, a map attached showing the district and the proposed area to be annexed or removed, and the board must have adopted a resolution approving such extension or reduction.

HB 2695 would change this procedure to additionally allow a majority of eligible voters in a district or a majority of eligible voters in a proposed area for extension or reduction to make that same petition to extend or reduce GMD territory. The bill further specifies that the requirement for a GMD board to adopt a resolution recommending the extension or reduction shall not apply to petitions filed by a majority of eligible voters of a district or proposed area for extension or reduction.

The bill becomes effective upon publication in the statute book.