

SESSION OF 2014

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
SENATE BILL NO. 286**

As Agreed to May 1, 2014

**Brief\***

SB 286 would extend the sunset from July 1, 2015, to July 1, 2018, on various fees that are currently charged by the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA). In addition, the bill would add two fee exemptions for milk processors that process or manufacture milk at the dairy where the milk is produced. The bill also would make a technical change to an existing statute.

The bill also would establish the Local Food and Farm Task Force. The Task Force would be responsible for preparing a local food and farm plan containing policy and funding recommendations in order to increase locally grown food production. The Task Force would be composed of seven members, as follows:

- Three members appointed by the Governor, including the Chairperson;
- One member representing the KDA;
- One member representing the Kansas State University Extension Systems and Agricultural Research Programs, appointed by the Dean of the College of Agriculture; and
- One member from the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and one from

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the Senate Committee on Agriculture, each appointed by the respective chairperson and representing different political parties.

In addition, the bill would designate the last Saturday in July of each year as National Day of the Cowboy in the state. The bill would authorize and direct the Governor to annually issue a proclamation calling upon state officials to display the U.S. Flag on the last Friday of July, declare the date to be the National Day of the Cowboy, and invite people of the state to observe the day. The bill also would authorize and direct the Governor to display the National Day of the Cowboy flag on the grounds of the Capitol on the last Friday of July each year. The bill would require the KDA to provide education and outreach for the National Day of the Cowboy.

### **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to the House version of SB 286.

In addition, the Conference Committee added the provisions of SB 380, as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole, which would establish the Local Food and Farm Task Force.

The Conference Committee also added the provisions of HB 2402, as recommended by the House Committee, which establishes the National Day of the Cowboy, and amended the provisions to require the KDA to provide education and outreach regarding the National Day of the Cowboy.

### **Background**

The bill, as amended by the Conference Committee, contains the provisions of three bills: SB 286 (KDA fees), SB 380 (Local Food and Farm Task Force), and HB 2402 (National Day of the Cowboy).

### **SB 286**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Agriculture at the request of the KDA. At the Senate Committee hearing on the bill, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture provided proponent testimony, stating the bill does not add any new fees. Representatives of the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, Kansas Cooperative Council, Kansas Dairy Association, Kansas Farm Bureau, and the Kansas Grain & Feed Association provided testimony in favor of the bill.

The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources amended the bill to change the proposed sunset date from July 1, 2019, to July 1, 2018.

The fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget states the bill would have no fiscal impact on KDA operations in FY 2014 or FY 2015. The KDA estimates that beginning in FY 2016, fee revenue would decrease by \$771,709 if the sunset dates are not extended.

### **SB 380**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture introduced the bill upon request of Senator Hawk.

At the Senate Committee hearing on the bill, Senator Hawk provided testimony in favor of the bill, stating the formation of the task force is an opportunity to create jobs, help small farms, and improve the health of Kansas citizens through access to healthier, more affordable foods. Others testifying in favor of the bill included representatives of Douglas County, KDA, Kansas Rural Center, and Kansas Small Business Development Center. Representatives from KC Healthy Kids, Kansas Livestock Association, and Kansas State University provided neutral testimony.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to reduce the task force membership from 18 members to 7. The

Committee also struck language that would have provided paid mileage for the members and inserted language that would designate KDA to provide administrative assistance in the start-up and structure of the Task Force.

The Senate Committee of the Whole adopted a technical amendment to the bill.

The fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on the original version of the bill indicates the cost of providing paid mileage to the members would be negligible to the state; however, the mileage provision was struck by the Senate Committee.

***HB 2402***

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Appropriations. At the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources hearing on the bill, two conferees appeared as proponents of the bill. The conferees indicated the bill would aid with the preservation and recognition of the cowboy heritage so its history and culture can be shared and perpetuated.

Written testimony in support of the bill was provided by Representative Weber and by a representative of the Travel Industry Association of Kansas.

The fiscal note on the introduced version of the bill indicates no fiscal impact.

Kansas Department of Agriculture; fees; Local Food and Farm Task Force; National Day of the Cowboy

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