

March 6, 2014

The Honorable Sharon Schwartz, Chairperson
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Statehouse, Room 149-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Schwartz:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2692 by House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2692 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2692 would authorize the Governor to enter into the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact. The Compact would promote the effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Great Plains region of the United States by maintaining adequate forest fire fighting services and providing reciprocal aid in fighting forest fires among the states that have ratified the Compact. Each state could formulate and enact a forest fire plan. Each member state would be required to assure that workers compensation benefits conform to the legal minimum requirements of the state and are available to all employees and contract firefighters sent to a requesting member state. Other requirements of the Compact are specified in the bill.

After inquiring with other states, the Adjutant General indicates HB 2692 would require a wildfire plan to be created at an approximate cost of \$150,000 and two out-of-state trips for five agency staff members are estimated to cost \$10,000. The agency indicates that joining the Compact would also create additional workload for agency staff that could not be absorbed within existing resources. However, the Adjutant General states it currently belongs to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, which is very similar to the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact which could be a duplication of effort if HB 2692 were enacted.

The Kansas Department of Labor estimates there could be additional workers compensation cases presented to administrative law judges; however the additional cases could be absorbed within existing resources. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment states there could be a fiscal effect on the Kansas Workers Compensation Program; however, the agency cannot estimate a fiscal effect until given an opportunity to operate under the provisions of the bill. The State Fire Marshal and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

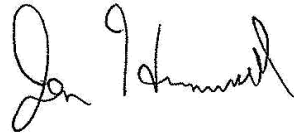
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indicate enactment of HB 2692 would have no fiscal effect on the operations of either agency. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2692 is not reflected in *The FY 2015 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hummell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "H".

Jon Hummell,
Interim Director of the Budget

cc: Becky Bahr, Fire Marshal's Office
Larry Baer, LKM
Cheri Froetschner, Adjutant General's Office
Dawn Palmberg, Labor
Chris Tymeson, KDWPT
Aaron Dunkel, KDHE
Mary Rinehart, Judiciary