

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2490

As Recommended by House Committee on
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Brief*

HB 2490 would add the definition of the term “toxicant” to the definitions of the Plant Pest Act. Under the bill, the term “toxicant” would mean any chemical, including agricultural chemicals, or any biological substance which, if present in unsafe levels, can render a plant or plant product unsafe for human or animal consumption. The term “plant pest” would be amended to include “toxicant” and to include language which encompasses anything in the definition which can cause a threat to the public health.

The bill would grant additional authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to quarantine the state or parts of the state when it is necessary to contain a plant pest for the protection of the public health. New authority also would be given to the Secretary to prevent the spread of a plant pest through quarantine into the state through its movement or transportation.

Background

The bill was introduced at the request of a spokesperson from the Kansas Department of Agriculture. At the hearing on the bill in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, a spokesperson for the agency indicated that in the event of a plant pest or disease outbreak, the bill would allow the agency to act more rapidly to stop the spread of the plant pest, which is critical to the agricultural industry.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Also appearing in support of the bill was a spokesperson for the Kansas Grain and Feed Association, Kansas Cooperative Council, and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association. There were no neutral or opponent conferees.

The fiscal note on the bill prepared by the Division of the Budget indicates there would be no fiscal impact associated with the enactment of the bill.