

STATE OF KANSAS



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RESOURCES BUDGET

HB 2528 – EDIF Funding of Water Plan

February 6, 2018

Water & Environment Committee

Committee Members: I have heard conferees and members of this Committee say that, notwithstanding important water funding needs, no increase in water user fees will be considered until the \$8 million of SGF and EDIF funding are restored. As I do not believe that the full SGF funding will be restored in the next few years, HB 2528 attempts to change the funding mechanism.

HB 2528 establishes that the first priority for expenditures from the EDIF shall be to transfer \$8 million per year to the State Water Plan Fund (pg.2, line 27). This removes any statutory requirement that \$6 million be appropriated from the State General Fund.

The bill then distributes \$4 million in the following manner:

\$3.0 million, divided equally, between the empirical research centers in Kansas (KS Biological Survey, KS Geological Survey, KSU Water Research Institute). Of those monies, 20% of each allocation must be used for inter-university and inter-agency collaborative projects.

\$600,000 to the Kansas Water Office with \$200,000 for on-site technical assistance to small water and wastewater systems.

The remaining \$400,000 at the Kansas Water Office to be used as state matching funds in support of communities with water quality or water availability problems wishing to connect to other water supply systems. We have talked about Pretty Prairie's difficulties, this would be a potential source of money to aid them in connecting to a better water supply system.

There was a failure on the bill sponsor's part to convey accurately to the Revisors how the remaining \$4 million should be appropriated. The bill should read that the money is provided to the KS Water Office for projects that reduce sediment flows into drinking water supply lakes, support municipal aquifer recharge programs, or extend the productive life of the Ogallala Aquifer.

Priorities for expending the money may be changed, but I am attempting to do four things with this bill:

1. Establish that protecting the state's water supplies is the highest economic development priority
2. Reinforce that metrics-driven research should guide program development and funding
3. Reinforce that inter-agency collaboration is a priority, and

*Attachment 2
HWE 2-8-18*

4. Reinforce that state-local government collaboration is a priority.

Committee Members, thank you for your attention. I look forward to your questions.