

SESSION OF 2007

## **SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 252**

As Introduced and Referred to Senate Committee of the Whole

### **Brief\***

SB 252 would convey approximately 59.3 acres of land on the north side of the campus of Kansas State University from the State Board of Regents to the United States government, Department of Homeland Security. The transfer would be contingent upon the Department of Homeland Security selecting a site on the tract of land as the location for the National Bio and Agro-Defense facility.

### **Background**

The federal government is searching for a site to replace the Plum Island Animal Disease Center at Plum Island, N.Y. In January 2006, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requested states or other entities interested in having the new National Bio and Agro-Defense laboratory in their state contact DHS. Twenty-nine states or other entities expressed interest in having the facility sited in their state. DHS has narrowed that list to eighteen possible sites in eleven states. Two of the sites that made the initial cut are in Kansas: a site in Leavenworth County immediately west of the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, and one at Kansas State University in Manhattan. The site in Leavenworth involves land that does not require a land conveyance by the state. The site in Manhattan would require a land conveyance.

According to DHS, four criteria will be used to judge the competing applicants:

- Research capabilities, including proximity to existing veterinary/medical/ research facilities;
- Workforce, both a critical mass of intellectual researchers and workers with expertise to provide proper security;

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\*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>

- Land acquisition and construction feasibility, including proximity to major highways and airports and environmental compatibility. At least 30 acres are required; and
- Community acceptance made evident in various ways, including letters of support from local and state government, industry and academia.