

SESSION OF 2007

## SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2168

As Amended by House Committee on  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget

### **Brief\***

HB 2168 creates a state public trust to administer relocation assistance, and to acquire, hold, and dispose of property located within the boundaries of a superfund site located in Cherokee County. Superfund sites include those properties listed on the National Priorities List established under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The trust would have five trustees appointed by the Governor and subject to Senate confirmation with staggered terms of four years ending on March 15. Vacancies would be filled by gubernatorial appointment to serve the unexpired term.

The bill would allow the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to make grants to the trust to provide relocation assistance and purchase property. Participation in the program would be voluntary.

The trust also would be allowed to provide grants to public school districts located within the affected community which are adversely impacted by the relocations.

### **Background**

At the hearing on the bill, Rep. Gatewood explained that this bill would impact the city of Treece in Cherokee county. Treece is located on the stateline adjacent to the city of Picher, Oklahoma. Picher, Oklahoma is currently in the process of being bought out to allow for environmental remediation of the area. Rep. Gatewood reported that when the towns were originally laid out, Treece was a part of Picher. Treece adopted a resolution on March 13, 2006 expressing its desire to be included in the Picher Superfund site remediation activities.

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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>

Gary Blackburn, Director of the Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, presented testimony explaining the impacts of the mining contamination in the Treece area. Maps showing the locations of the mine waste and mine underground workings, creating possible subsidence issues, also were presented to the Committee.

There were no opponents to HB 2168.

The fiscal note on the bill indicates a FY 2008 cost of \$4,000 for trust activities, \$31,265 for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for salaries and operating costs to administer the relocation assistance grant program. In addition, the Governor's Budget Report includes funding of \$680,000 from the State General Fund for the state's 10.0 percent match requirement with the federal government to provide relocation assistance.