

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2303

As Amended by House Committee on
Appropriations

Brief*

HB 2303 is the Kansas National Bio and Agro Defense Facility Interagency Working Group Act. The bill would create an interagency working group to support and assist the United States Department of Homeland Security in the National Environmental Policy Act process to conduct an environmental impact statement on any site in Kansas selected by the Department of Homeland Security for the location of a National Bio and Agro Defense Facility.

Ex-officio members of the working group would include the Secretary of Health and Environment and the following officials or their designees: Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Administration, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Revenue, Attorney General, State Board of Regents, Adjutant General, Livestock Commissioner, Mayor of the City of Manhattan, Chairperson of the Leavenworth County Board of Commissioners, and Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

The Secretary of Health and Environment would serve as the chairperson of the working group, with the vice-chairperson elected from the group membership.

Appointments of designees must be made and submitted to the Kansas Bioscience Authority no more than 30 days after the enactment of the act.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment shall coordinate all acts performed by the members of the working group, including:

- Establishing a support network among the members;
- Supporting the Governor in the formulation of recommendations regarding the siting of the facility;

*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>

- Serving as an information resource on the facility, including but not limited to:
 - Providing objective, scientific, educational material on the facility;
 - Conducting workshops for state and local agencies;
 - Coordinating community outreach meetings;
 - Maintaining a website on the facility; and
 - Performing other tasks to educate the public about the facility.
- Identifying the regulatory responsibilities for all aspects of the siting of the facility;
- Providing guidance to the Department of Homeland Security on state and local permits;
- Coordinating the exchange of information among federal, state, and local agencies affected by the siting of the facility in Kansas;
- Identifying available resources to assist the Department of Homeland Security in the National Environmental Policy Act process; and
- Facilitating the involvement of all affected state and local agencies in the National Environmental Policy Act process.

The act will expire upon either completion of the facility, or elimination of all potential sites in Kansas from consideration by the Department of Homeland Security.

The act will take effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

HB 2303 was introduced by the Committee on Taxation.

At the hearing on the bill, proponents included Representative Kenny Wilk, Representative Tom Hawk, the Executive Vice President of the Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce, the Assistant City Manager of the City of Leavenworth, and the Mayor of Manhattan.

Kansas has two sites under consideration for location of the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility. The \$450 million, 500,000 square foot facility is estimated to create 1,500 construction jobs and 500 research jobs. Location of the facility in Kansas has an estimated economic impact of \$3.5 billion in the next 20 years.

There were no opponents to the bill.

The House Committee on Appropriations amended the bill to include the Adjutant General or his designee and the Livestock Commissioner or his designee as ex-officio members of the working group.

A fiscal note on the bill was not available.