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MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Agriculture

From: Kyle Hamilton, Assistant Revisor of Statutes

Date: March 20, 2017

Subject: Bill Brief on SB 117, as amended by Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

SB 117 would add two additional county-option weeds to the Noxious Weed Law.

Under current law, there are 12 plant species designated as noxious weeds throughout the entire state of Kansas and there are two species, the multiflora rose and bull thistle, that are county-option weeds. Section 1 would add the everbearing blackberry and the Himalayan blackberry to the list of county-option weeds. A county-option weed can be declared as a noxious weed within a county in one of two ways: (1) A board of county commissioners may declare a county-option weed as a noxious weed within the boundary of such county; or (2) five percent of a county's electorate may file a petition requesting that the secretary of agriculture declare a county-option weed as a noxious weed.

SB 117 would become effective upon publication in the statute book.