

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Dan Kerschen, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Statehouse, Room 225-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Kerschen:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 194 by Senate Committee on Ways and Means

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 194 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law allows the board of a groundwater management district to assess annual water user charges against each person who withdraws groundwater from within the boundaries of the district. The maximum charge that can be assessed is \$1 for each acre-foot of groundwater withdrawn, unless the authorized place of use for groundwater withdrawn within the district is more than 50.0 percent outside the district, in which case the maximum charge could not exceed \$1.50 per acre-foot. SB 194 would change those maximum amounts to \$1.50 and \$2.00, respectively. The bill would require claims asserting that the actual groundwater use is less than the amount allocated to the person's water right to be submitted to the board by April 1 of the year the assessment is made. SB 194 would require that the board determine by December 31 of each year whether verified claims would be accepted for the ensuing year. The bill would also make technical corrections.

According to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, enactment of SB 194 would have no fiscal effect on the agency. The Kansas Water Office also indicates that enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency or the State Water Plan Fund, as annual water user charges are assessed and collected by groundwater management districts.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,  
Director of the Budget

cc: Justin Law, Agriculture  
Ginger Harper, Water Office