

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Kyle Hoffman, Chairperson
House Committee on Agriculture
Statehouse, Room 481-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Hoffman:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2246 by House Committee on Agriculture

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2246 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2246 would amend the Kansas Noxious Weed Act that is administered by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The bill would remove the state noxious weed list from statute and place it into regulations within a year of enactment. It would also establish an eleven-member State Noxious Weed Advisory Board to recommend changes to the noxious weed list by using a science-based risk assessment. The bill would strengthen the ability of county weed departments to enforce the law and would require the use of certified weed-free forage on state lands. The Advisory Board would report on expenditures, program effectiveness, and recommendations for the use of state funds.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture indicates that enactment of HB 2246 would increase demand for weed-free forage certification inspections that are a fee-based service provided by the Plant Protection and Weed Control Program. Associated revenue would be comprised of additional hours of onsite and travel inspection time, as well as mileage, and is estimated to be approximately \$4,000 annually. Since the Noxious Weed Control Program is already in place and operating, the expenditures attributable to HB 2246 would be limited to the cost of travel and per diem for the State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. The cost is based on four meetings per year, with an average of seven members claiming per diem and travel costs averaging \$142 per person per meeting for a total of \$3,976. Those costs would be absorbed within existing resources.

The Kansas Association of Counties states that counties would still be responsible for the control and eradication of noxious weeds, but the advisory committee would oversee the program.

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The Association expects any fiscal effect from HB 2246 to be very small. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2246 is not reflected in *The FY 2018 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Justin Law, Agriculture
Brock Ingmire, League of Municipalities
Melissa Wangemann, Association of Counties