

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2550

As Recommended by House Committee on
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Brief*

HB 2550 would repeal KSA 2013 Supp. 75-5673, a statute that requires the Secretary of Health and Environment to establish a statewide atmospheric mercury monitoring network to measure mercury deposition in Kansas.

Background

This bill was introduced at the request of a spokesperson from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). At the hearing on the bill, the only conferee was a spokesperson from KDHE who indicated the statute was enacted in response to concerns regarding air pollution from mercury emissions, primarily from coal-burning electricity generating units. The Committee was told that KDHE has conducted wet deposition mercury monitoring and has reported the results to the Kansas Legislature in an annual report and posted the results on the agency's website. The Committee was informed that the total mercury wet deposition has been relatively consistent at each site in the monitoring network, with no clear signs of increasing or decreasing trend. The Committee also learned the agency does not intend to cease testing for mercury, but rather the agency will determine which monitors provide useful data. The conferee stated the agency will determine the number and location of the mercury monitors.

*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>

According to the fiscal note, passage of the bill would reduce expenditures and fee revenue by \$20,000 in FY 2015. It also states KDHE would retire at least one monitor, and the reduction in fee revenue would be offset by a corresponding reduction in expenditures for sampling and analysis related to the monitor.