

SESSION OF 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 314

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Agriculture

Brief*

SB 314 would re-establish the Local Food and Farm Task Force (Task Force), which had sunset on December 31, 2015, and establish a new sunset for the Task Force of July 1, 2017.

Among other provisions, the bill would continue the membership of the Task Force, provide for Task Force staffing, and direct the Task Force to prepare a Local Food and Farm Plan to be submitted at the beginning of the 2017 Legislative Session.

The bill also would add language that members of the Task Force attending regular, authorized meetings and requesting reimbursement would be paid mileage as provided in current law for no more than four meetings. Also, the bill would include revised directives and add a new directive for the Task Force to study, including:

- Identification of financial opportunities, technical support, and training necessary to expand production and sales of locally grown agricultural products (revised);
- Identification of strategies and funding needs to make locally grown foods more accessible (revised); and

*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>

- Identification of factors affecting affordability and profitability of locally grown foods (new).

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by Senator Kerschen, who was a member of the original Task Force.

At the Senate Committee on Agriculture hearing, those testifying in favor of the bill included representatives from the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and the Kansas Farmers Union. Written testimony in favor of the bill was submitted by representatives of the American Heart Association, KC Healthy Kids, and the Kansas Rural Center. The proponents of the bill stated there was support to continue working toward the overall objective of removing existing obstacles to increase locally grown food in Kansas. There was no neutral or opponent testimony provided at the Senate Committee hearing.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to specify that members of the Task Force attending regular meetings would need to request reimbursement for mileage and could only receive mileage reimbursement for no more than four meetings. [*Staff note: Mileage reimbursement was not part of 2014 SB 286, the bill that originally established the Task Force.*] In addition, the Senate Committee amended two of the prior directives to the Task Force and added an additional directive, the results of which would be reported to the 2017 Legislature in the Task Force's Local Food and Farm Plan. Retained directives include identification of existing local food infrastructures and strategies for encouragement of farmers' markets, roadside markets, and local grocery stores.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, states existing law requires the KDA

and the Kansas Legislative Research Department to provide administrative support for the Task Force. The KDA estimates that the expense associated with continuing that support through FY 2017 will be less than \$1,000 from the State General Fund and will be paid from existing resources.

In addition, the bill would require payment of mileage to members of the Task Force, but does not indicate which agency would be responsible for making those payments. If KDA were made responsible, the agency indicates its expenditures would increase, but is unable to estimate the amount of the increase as the number of meetings is unknown, as is the distance that individual Task Force members would be required to drive for each meeting. Only three members of the Task Force would be paid mileage. The other members are legislators, who receive mileage payments by statute, or state employees, who are able to use state supplied vehicles. However, if those three members lived significant distances from Topeka and Manhattan, and if seven meetings were held annually, as was the case in FY 2015, the cost could reach as much as \$7,500 from the State General Fund (600 miles round trip X 3 members X 7 meetings X \$.59 reimbursement per mile = \$7,434).

Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.