LEGISLATURE of THE STATE of KANSAS

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MEMORANDUM

To:

House Committee on Water and Environment

From:

Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date:

February 8, 2018

Subject:

House Bill 2528

House Bill 2528 would repeal K.S.A. 82a-953a which provided that the state would transfer \$6,000,000 from the state general fund to the state water plan fund. HB 2528 amends the economic development initiatives statute (EDIF) to require \$8,000,000 to be transferred to the state water plan fund in each fiscal year. HB 2528 would require this distribution to be made prior to making any other distribution from EDIF.

HB 2528 amends K.S.A. 82a-951 concerning the state water plan fund and would require certain expenditures be made from the water plan fund. In each year, no less than \$4,000,000 of the \$8,000,000 EDIF transfer would be required to be spent from the water plan fund as follows:

- 1. 75% to state water-related empirical research centers to be used to provide research and grants within the scope of the center's mission.
 - 20% of each research center's amount must be used for collaborative projects with the Kansas Biological Survey, Kansas Geological Survey, and the Water Research Institute and Kansas State University for the purposes of:
 - o Water quality issues impacting downstream treatment operations;
 - Identifying changes in reservoir storage capacity and sediment composition;
 - Evaluating costs and benefits of different sediment removal methods;
 - Evaluating sedimentation factors;
 - o Identifying methods of treatment of non-potable water;
 - o Development of low water consuming agricultural plants; and
 - Identifying innovative water conservation technologies for agriculture.

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2. 25% would be distributed as follows:

- 60% to the Kansas Water Office with 1/3 of such funds for on-site technical assistance for small water and wastewater systems and the other 2/3 to be used with matching funds to support communities with water quality or water availability problems.
- 40% to the Kansas Water Authority to evaluate grant applications and award grants to state agencies for sedimentation projects, municipal aquifer recharge programs or to extend the life of the Ogallala aquifer.