

Testimony on SB 170
presented to
Senate Utilities Committee
by
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The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is pleased to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 170 which proposes changes to the Asbestos Control Act. Specifically, this initiative proposes to redirect all generated revenue from the Asbestos Program to a dedicated subaccount in the existing Air Quality Fee Fund (AQFF) to be used for program expenditures and to eliminate all State General Fund (SGF) funding for the Kansas Asbestos Control Program.

The Kansas Asbestos Control Program was established in accordance with Kansas asbestos statutes passed in 1985 in response to concerns about asbestos abatement in Kansas. The program works to eliminate poor abatement practices through a combination of business licensing, abatement plan approvals, job site inspections, and if necessary, enforcement.

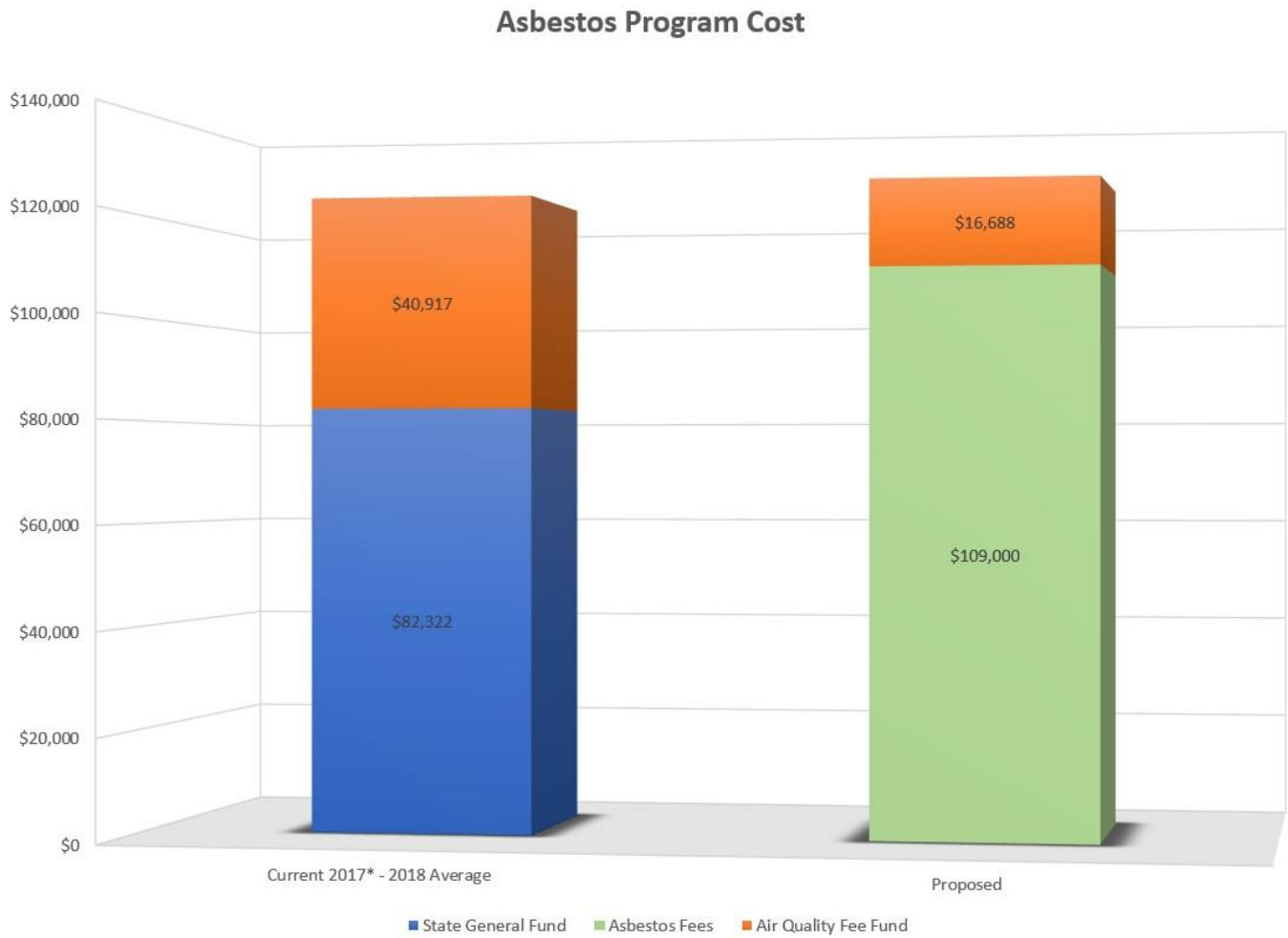
The Asbestos Program is currently underfunded and must use funding from the Air Quality Fee Fund to meet program expenditures. Approximately \$40,000 per year is used from the AQFF to support the Asbestos Program. The AQFF is primarily used to fund all state and federal air quality regulations and expenditures.

The Kansas asbestos statutes authorize KDHE to collect fees and fines to fund the program, thereby removing the fiscal burden from Kansas taxpayers and placing it on those that actively use the program. Currently, the program receives \$80,000 annual funding from SGF. All fees and fines collected, which is approximately \$110,000 annually, are deposited back in the SGF.

This bill is requesting the fees and fines remain with the Asbestos Program and KDHE would no longer request SGF for the Asbestos Program. By approving this request, the AQFF support of the Asbestos Program would reduce from approximately \$40,000 per year to approximately \$10,000 per year. Thereby allowing the funds in the AQFF to be used for their intended purpose.

Thank you for allowing me to explain the benefits of this bill. I will be happy to stand for any questions.

Figure 1: Graphical illustration of asbestos control program budgets from FY17-19



* 1 - \$9,000 fine was collected in SFY 2017