

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 56

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 56 would change existing law by transferring the responsibility of recognizing official county fair associations to the board of county commissioners of the county where the association is located. Currently, that responsibility resides with the Secretary of Agriculture. A new provision of law would state that a county fair association or livestock show association officially recognized by the Secretary of Agriculture prior to July 1, 2013, would retain that official recognition unless it was revoked by a vote of the county commissioners in the county where the association is located. The bill also would require the Secretary of Agriculture, prior to January 1, 2014, to notify the board of county commissioners of any county in which the Secretary of Agriculture has recognized an official county fair association.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Agriculture at the request of the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA).

At the Senate Committee hearing, proponents included representatives from the KDA and the Kansas Association of Counties. The KDA representative testified that, in 1994, the duty to officially recognize county fairs was not transferred from the Kansas State Board of Agriculture to the KDA. The representative testified that, since the KDA does not maintain a list of officially recognized county fairs, the statute should be updated to place recognition of county fairs at the county

*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>

level. The Kansas Association of Counties representative stated the Association's members approved the changes made by the bill.

The Senate Committee amended the bill by including a new section allowing county fairs that received recognition from the Secretary of Agriculture prior to July 1, 2013, to retain that recognition unless specifically revoked by the board of county commissioners. The Committee also amended the bill with regard to the payment of premiums and rewards, for county fairs that have been officially recognized as the official county fair by the board of county commissioners or the Secretary of Agriculture (prior to July 1, 2013). In addition, the Committee approved technical amendments to the bill.

At the hearing held by the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, the only conferee was a representative of the Kansas Department of Agriculture who spoke as a proponent. There was no neutral or opponent testimony on the bill.

The House Committee amended the bill to apply to livestock show associations as well as county fair associations. The Committee also added a provision requiring the Secretary of Agriculture, prior to January 1, 2014, to notify the board of county commissioners of any county in which the Secretary of Agriculture has recognized an official county fair association. The Committee also approved several technical amendments.

The House Committee of the Whole made a technical amendment to the bill.

The fiscal note on the original bill indicated any fiscal effect on the Department of Agriculture would be negligible. The fiscal note indicates the Kansas Association of Counties states the bill would result in some administrative costs for the counties, but any fiscal effect would be negligible.