

February 9, 2015

The Honorable Garrett Love, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Statehouse, Room 237-E  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Love:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for SB 134 by Senate Committee on Agriculture

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 134 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 134 would amend the Kansas Noxious Weed Act that is administered by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The bill would remove the state noxious weed list from statute and place it into regulations within a year of enactment. It would also establish the State Noxious Weed Advisory Board to recommend changes to the noxious weed list by using a science-based risk assessment. The bill would also strengthen the ability of county weed departments to enforce the law and would require the use of certified weed-free forage on state lands. The Advisory Board would also report on expenditures, program effectiveness, and recommendations for the use of state funds.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture indicates that passage of SB 134 would increase demand for weed-free forage certification inspections that are a fee-based service provided by the Plant Protection and Weed Control Program. The revenue would be comprised of additional hours of onsite and travel inspection time and associated mileage. Since the Noxious Weed Control Program is already in place and operating, the expenditures attributable to SB 134 would be limited to the cost of travel and per diem for the State Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. The cost is based on four meetings per year, with an average of seven members claiming per diem and travel costs averaging \$142 per person per meeting for a total of \$3,976. Those costs would be absorbed within existing resources.

The Kansas Association of Counties states that counties would still be responsible for the control and eradication of noxious weeds, but the advisory committee would oversee the

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program. Any fiscal effect from SB 134 would be negligible. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 134 is not reflected in *The FY 2016 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,  
Director of the Budget

cc: Justin Law, Agriculture  
Melissa Wangemann, Association of Counties