

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2080

As Recommended by House Committee on
Water and Environment

Brief*

HB 2080 would require boards of rural water districts to reinstate any benefit unit that has been forfeited due to delinquent payments upon payment of:

- All unpaid fees and charges due to the district in addition to any fees and charges that would have accrued since the date of forfeiture; and
- A benefit unit reinstatement fee in an amount that cannot exceed 20 percent of the water district's current fee to establish a new benefit unit.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Water and Environment. In the House Committee hearing, a representative of the Kansas Rural Water Association provided testimony in favor of the bill, explaining the right to receive water service provided by a rural water district is called a "benefit unit," which is a property right attached to the land where service is provided. The representative stated the vast majority of benefit units are never subject to forfeiture, but problems can occur when property is abandoned or an owner does not pay water bills. When the property is sold in the future, the buyer may discover the benefit unit has been forfeited, and the property is without water service until a

*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>

replacement benefit unit is purchased. No other testimony was offered.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Kansas Water Office and Kansas Department of Agriculture state the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agencies' budgets.