

STATE OF KANSAS

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**Before the
House Committee on Water and Environment
Testimony on HB 2665
Earl Lewis, Assistant Director, Kansas Water Office
February 13, 2018**

Chairman Sloan and members of the committee, my name is Earl Lewis and I am the Assistant Director of the Kansas Water Office. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2665.

House Bill 2665 would create a Kansas water law study commission, under the direction of the Kansas Water Authority.

It is expected that the Kansas Water Office would contract with members of the commission to complete the work. The commission would review the following acts:

- Chapter 42 of Kansas Statutes Annotated,
- The Kansas water appropriation act,
- The groundwater management district act,
- The state water plan storage act,
- The water assurance program act, and
- The Kansas water transfer act.

Prior to being submitted to the legislature, the commission's study report would be submitted to the Kansas Water Authority and Kansas Water Office. The report would be submitted to standing committees, including the House Committee on Water and Environment, before the last day of the regular session in 2020.

K.S.A 74-2622 provides for the establishment, roles and duties of the Kansas Water Authority.

K.S.A. 74-2622 (d) (3) Make a study of the laws of this state, other states and the federal government relating to conservation and development of water resources, appropriation of water for beneficial use, flood control, construction of levees, drainage, irrigation, soil conservation, watershed development, stream control, gauging of stream and stream pollution for the purpose of determining the necessity or advisability of the enactment of new or amendatory legislation in this state on such subjects.

We support the process that has been laid out in the bill should the legislature choose to move forward with authorizing and directing the study to be completed.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.