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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 12, 2024
Subject: HB 2543—Livestock Brand Applications, Registrations and Renewals

House Bill 2543 would require approval of livestock brand applications by the animal health commissioner and increase the maximum amount for brand registration and renewal fees.

Currently, a person may apply to register a brand for the purpose of branding livestock in accordance with rules and regulations of the animal health commissioner. When the person applies to register a brand, such person is required to pay a registration fee in an amount not to exceed \$55 and provide a facsimile of the brand. The registration lasts for four years. After registration and issuance of a certificate of brand title, the person has the exclusive right to use such brand in Kansas. Registration may be renewed for a five-year period and a fee not to exceed \$55. If a person does not pay the renewal fee within 60 days after the registration expires, the brand is forfeited. The use of a forfeited brand is unlawful.

HB 2543 would authorize the animal health commissioner to assess a separate application fee in addition to the existing registration fee. The application fee, registration fee or renewal fee, individually, could not exceed \$100. Additionally, upon application for a brand, the commissioner would be required to determine whether such brand is available for use and would notify the applicant. Within 60 days of receiving notice of approval of the brand, the applicant would be required to remit a registration fee. Upon approval of the brand and remittance of the registration fee, the person would be issued a certificate of brand title. The bill would also expressly state that the use of a brand for which a certificate of brand title has not been issued would be unlawful.

HB 2543 would take effect on July 1, 2024, upon publication in the Kansas statute book.