

SESSION OF 2013

**SECOND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2216**

As Agreed to May 30, 2013

Brief*

HB 2216 would eliminate the following joint legislative committees: Arts and Cultural Resources, Children's Issues; Economic Development; Energy and Environmental Policy; Health Policy Oversight; Legislative Educational Planning; and the KPERS Study Commission.

In addition, the Joint Committee on Special Claims Against the State would be reduced from 13 members to 7.

Conference Committee Action

The second Conference Committee agreed to the Senate amendments to the bill and further agreed to make a technical amendment. The technical amendment deletes a section pertaining to exceptions to disclosure under the Kansas Open Records Act (section 23, Senate Committee of the Whole bill version). Because the bill would continue, rather than eliminate, the Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits, this section is not necessary.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House General Government Budget Committee.

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

The House General Government Budget Committee amended the bill to reduce the current statutory requirement for four attorney members on the Joint Committee on Special Claims Against the State to two attorneys. As a result of the Committee amendment, the bill requires one attorney from the Kansas House of Representatives and one attorney from the Kansas Senate. The Committee made two technical amendments: deleting a statutory reference to the Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits contained within the Open Records Act, and deleting references to the Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources in statutes related to plans to place murals in the Statehouse.

The Committee also amended the bill to make the bill effective upon publication in statute, rather than in the *Kansas Register*.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to remove the sunset for the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice. The Joint Committee does not have a sunset date under current law; however, the bill would have established a sunset date of July 1, 2015.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means amended the bill to eliminate references to the Committee on Home and Community Based Services. HB 2025, which was signed into law on April 16, 2013, creates the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight. The new committee operates under the same statutory authority as that originally for the existing Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services, and the deletion resolves the conflict.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to delete statutory references to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee and confer their reporting duties on the Board of Regents and the State Board of Education. The Committee of the Whole further amended the bill to remove the deletion of the Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits. Finally, the Committee made some technical

corrections to language in the bill and corrected two statutory references.

The fiscal note prepared by the the Division of the Budget on the original bill states the Office of Legislative Administrative Services (LAS) indicates the Legislature spent \$35,331, all from the State General Fund, during the 2012 Interim on costs associated with the above joint legislative committees. During the 2011 Interim, \$81,779 was spent on joint legislative committee costs. Enactment of the bill would reduce State General Fund expenditures for the Legislature. However, the amount of savings would depend on the number of meetings and members attending.

In addition, LAS reports the costs for the Joint Committee on Special Claims Against the State totaled \$8,050 during the 2012 Interim and \$12,473 for the 2011 Interim. If the number of members would have been reduced by six during each of these years, the estimated costs would have been reduced to \$4,335 during the 2012 Interim and \$6,716 during the 2011 Interim. However, the amount of savings as a result from the enactment of the bill would depend on the number of meetings and members attending.

Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources, Joint Committee on Economic Development, Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy, Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits, Joint Committee on Special Claims Against the State, Legislative Education Planning Committee, joint committee elimination

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