

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2252**

As Agreed to April 1, 2022

Brief*

HB 2252 would amend law regarding modifying election laws by agreement.

The bill would specify the Governor, the Secretary of State (Secretary), and any other officer in the executive branch could not enter into a consent decree or other agreement with any state or federal court or any agreement with any other party regarding the enforcement of election law or the alteration of any election procedure without specific approval by the Legislature. [Note: Current law restricts only the Secretary from entering into such agreements without specific approval by the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC).]

If the Legislature is not in session when such agreement is submitted for review, the bill would require approval to be sought from the LCC.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to insert the contents of SB 418, as amended by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs, related to the modification of election laws by agreement, into HB 2252. [Note: The previous contents of HB 2252, related to liquor licenses, were placed into the conference committee report for 2021 HB 2137, which was signed by the Governor on May 19, 2021.]

Background

SB 418

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Opportunity Solutions Project.

*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/kird>

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of Opportunity Solutions Project provided **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would prevent the Governor from modifying election laws and procedures or entering into agreements regarding elections without specific approval from the Legislature.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Kansas National Education Association, stating concern that the bill would hinder action in an emergency situation where changes to election law or procedure might be needed.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to state the approval for any changes to election law or election procedures would be submitted to the Legislature for approval or, when the Legislature is not in session, the LCC. [*Note:* These provisions were retained by the Conference Committee.]

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Offices of the Governor, the Secretary, Legislative Administrative Services, and the Judiciary all state that enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

Elections; election laws; Legislative Coordinating Council; legislative branch; executive branch; judicial branch

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