

SESSION OF 2011

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF ON
HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 127**

As Agreed to May 12, 2011

Brief*

House Sub. for Sub. for SB 127 would create the University Engineering Initiative Act. The Act is intended to increase the number of engineering graduates to 1,365 graduates per year by 2021. The Act directs the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Board of Regents, Kansas State University, Wichita State University, the University of Kansas and private industry, to develop a plan to ensure engineering industry partners find the new talent, designs and techniques needed to fuel economic growth and business success in Kansas. The Act authorizes the acquisition, construction, and equipping of engineering facilities on state-owned property of the Board of Regents or any of the three universities, and requires the universities to submit to the Secretary of Commerce and the Board of Regents a plan to provide for the annual maintenance and operation costs of any newly constructed engineering facility or existing facility when seeking funds for construction or improvement of the facility.

The Act creates three new funds in the state treasury: Kan-Grow Engineering Fund-WSU, Kan-Grow Engineering Fund-KSU, and Kan-Grow Engineering Fund-KU. On July 1, 2012 through July 1, 2021, the first \$10.5 million credited to the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund shall be transferred equally to each of the three newly created funds. The

* 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>

funding shall be matched by the universities on a \$1 for \$1 basis from non-state sources.

The Act also would amend the enacting statute for the Expanded Lottery Act Revenues Fund to expand its uses to include the University Engineering Initiative Act.

Finally, the Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a review of the universities' plan to meet the goals established by the Act on or before the first day of the 2018 regular session.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee replaced the contents of the bill with University Engineering Initiative Act.

Background

As introduced, SB 127 would make changes regarding primary elections for school district, city officer, or community college trustee office. It would require a primary election only if more than three candidates would be on the ballot for a specific office or if the number of candidates is more than three times the number to be elected if the election-at-large method is to be used. The bill was requested by the Kansas County Clerks and Elections Officials Association. The Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections recommended a substitute bill that incorporates extensive technical changes to the original bill but does not change its intent. (These provisions are included in the Conference Committee Report for HB 2080.)

At the House hearing on Sub. for SB 127 in the House Committee on Elections, representatives from the Secretary of State, the League of Kansas Municipalities, and elections officials from Allen and Crawford County testified as proponents. No neutral or opposing testimony was presented.

The House Committee adopted a new substitute bill to add the following into Sub. for SB 127:

- The contents of SB 17, as recommended by the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections, relating to campaign contributions for the State Board of Education; and
- The contents of HB 2308, as introduced, relating to the filing of campaign treasurer's reports. This provision was further amended by the House Committee to require that treasurer's reports for candidates for state office be filed only with the Secretary of State and no longer are required to be filed with the county election office in which the candidate lives.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill in the following ways:

- Added the contents of HB 2314, which would change the terms of office for the Drainage District No. 2 of Finney County from a three-year staggered term to a four-year staggered term (these provisions are included in the Conference Committee Report for HB 2080);
- Changed the campaign contribution limits from \$500 to \$750 for candidates for the House of Representatives, district judge, district magistrate judge, district attorney, or local office, and the limit for state senators and State Board of Education members from \$1,000 to \$1,500;
- Removed the contents of HB 2308 and added a provision that would eliminate the requirement that candidates for state office file a treasurer's report with the county election office in the county in which the candidate lives (these candidates would file only with the state) (these provisions are included in the Conference Committee Report for HB 2080); and
- Added the contents of HB 2309, which would allow candidates for office to transfer campaign contributions

from one campaign fund to another campaign fund for a separate office.

University Engineering Initiative Act, Kan-Grow Engineering