

SESSION OF 2002

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE BILL NO. 2337**

As Agreed to May 7, 2002

Brief *

HB 2337 expands the powers of local school boards (limited home rule) and creates a 15-member Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations.

The bill provides that local boards of education shall have the power to transact business for the efficient and effective use of district resources in a manner and upon such terms and conditions as the board deems to be in the best interest of the school district.

The power conferred on school districts shall not relieve any other unit of government of its duties and responsibilities which are prescribed by law, nor to create any responsibility on the part of a school district to assume the duties or responsibilities which are required of another unit of government. School districts shall exercise the powers of local control by resolution of the board of education.

The powers granted to school boards shall be liberally construed.

The Senate version of the above sentence which the Conference Committee deleted provided that the powers conferred shall be construed to give a board of education "the largest measure of authority to transact business of the school district."

HB 2337 also creates a 15-member Kansas Advisory Council On Intergovernmental Relations. The Council would have the duty to engage in continuous study of the services provided by the various types and levels of government within the state, the division of responsibility for providing the organizational structure and operational efficiency of the various governmental units serving the citizens of the

*Conference committee summary reports 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.

state; and the state and local tax structure and the revenue requirements and fiscal policies of the state and its local units of government.

The Council would be required to give particular attention to modernization of the structure of Kansas local government, the impact of urbanization on the organization and functions of local government, the impact of technology on the organization and functions of local government, and the relationships between state and local governments.

The Council would be required to make an annual report in writing to the Governor and Legislature.

The Governor would appoint 11 members as follows:

- Two members shall be elected county officials of which, one shall be a member of a board of county commissioners;
- Two members shall be elected city officials;
- One member shall be an elected township official;
- One member shall be an elected school board member;
- Two members shall be executive branch officials; and
- Three members shall be private citizens.

Two members of the Council shall be members of the Kansas Senate—one shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and one by the Senate Minority Leader. Two members of the Council shall be members of the Kansas House of Representatives—one shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and one shall be appointed by the House Minority Leader. Members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses. No more than seven members may be from the same political party.

The Council is authorized to receive moneys from grants, gifts, contributions, bequests, and other donations.