

SESSION OF 2005

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2507**

As Agreed to April 29, 2005

Brief *

The bill would amend current law concerning appointment of legislative counsel and membership qualifications on the Joint Committee on Claims Against the State. Specifically, the bill would maintain the existing position of legislative counsel, but would remove the existing unclassified state employee classification and replace it with a contract for an attorney in the private practice of law. The substitute bill also removes the nominating process for an individual and allows the Legislative Coordinating Council to enter into a contract with a private attorney with five affirmative votes from the Council. The contract also can be terminated by five affirmative votes of the Council.

The bill also specifies that not less than one member of the Joint Committee on Claims Against the State shall be an attorney. Such member could be from either the House or Senate.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to reinsert the amended version of the original bill as approved by the House, which related to the membership qualifications of members of the Joint Committee on Claims Against the State.

*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. The conference committee summary report may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Background

The original version of HB 2507 removed all requirements regarding attorney membership on the Joint Committee on Claims Against the State. There were no proponents or opponents to the bill who appeared in committee. The House Committee amended HB 2507 to specify that at least one member, from either the House or the Senate, shall be an attorney. Current law requires that two House members and two Senate members of the Joint Committee on Claims Against the State be attorneys licensed to practice law in the State of Kansas. At the time of the Committee hearing, a fiscal note was not available.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means removed all the provisions of HB 2507 and inserted provisions allowing the Legislative Coordinating Council to enter into a contract for legislative counsel. There were no proponents or opponents to the bill who appeared in Committee. At the time of the Committee hearing, a fiscal note was not available.