



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
March 5, 2015

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2395

Good afternoon Chairman Hutton and Members of the Committee. I am Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration at the Kansas Board of Regents, and I am here today to speak on behalf of the Board of Regents in support of House Bill 2395.

The bill contains two proposed amendments to current law. First, the bill increases the limits for contracting for services by architects and engineers without convening a negotiating committee. With this amendment, the current limits of \$750,000 for architects and \$500,000 for engineers would each be increased to \$1,000,000. Projects under those amounts could be performed by licensed agency professionals, Department of Administration professionals or by on-call architects/engineers who have been retained for defined terms after having gone through an established competitive procurement process.

The existing limits have been in place since 2006, and the proposed limits are reasonable, based on current project costs and the capabilities of the agency, Department of Administration, or on-call professionals.

This amendment would reduce the time expended advertising, reviewing qualifications, short-listing, interviewing and selecting design professionals. It would also reduce the time and money spent by architectural and engineering firms generating materials, traveling and preparing for interviews.

Second, the bill proposes to remove the advertisement and public hearing requirement for projects that use an alternate project delivery method of construction. Other safeguards are in place to prevent the indiscriminate use of alternate project delivery procurement processes, and existing statutes require the State Building Advisory Commission to review and approve only those projects for which the use of an alternate project delivery procurement process is appropriate.

The Alternate Project Delivery Building Construction Procurement Act has been in place since 2006, and rarely has anyone appeared at the required public hearing for a state university project under this act; therefore, it seems reasonable to eliminate this redundant requirement and save the time and money associated with advertising and the waiting period for the hearing.

We urge you to support HB 2395.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Committee today.