

SESSION OF 2003

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 21**

As Agreed to April 2, 2003

Brief *

SB 21 would make a number of revisions to the statutes which govern the Supreme Court Nominating Commission (KSA 20-119, *et seq.* and KSA 20-3003, *et seq.*) and 17 District Judicial Nominating Commissions (KSA 20-2901, *et seq.*), delays by one year the addition of three new Kansas Court of Appeals Judges approved by the Legislature in 2001, and makes a change regarding the consideration of the Judicial Branch budget.

In regard to the Supreme Court Nominating Commission, an amendment clarifies that ballots must be received in the clerk's office on or before a certain date. In regard to the duty of the clerk's office to keep an attorney roster, the reference to Martindale-Hubbel is deleted since information on the computer database in the clerk's office is more current.

An amendment is made to strike a requirement the Supreme Court Nominating Commission meet at the Statehouse. Further, the statute would allow expenses including official hospitality to be paid from available funds.

A requirement is deleted that ballots contain separate votes equal in number for persons to be elected or otherwise the ballot would be considered void. A clarification is made that interim appointees on these district judicial nominating commissions serve for the unexpired term.

In regard to the effective date of appointments to the position of district magistrate judge, an amendment provides the appointment will be effective on the date set by the Supreme Court.

*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/kldr>

The bill delays by one year the addition of each of the three new judge positions which will be added to the Kansas Court of Appeals. The 12th Judge would be added in 2005, the 13th Judge in 2006, and the 14th Judge in 2007.

In addition, the bill provides that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will submit annual budget requests to the Legislature (under current law, the budget is submitted to the Director of the Budget). The bill requires that the Director of the Budget shall not revise the budget for the Judicial Branch. The budget, as submitted, will be included in the Governor's Budget Report.

Background

The Conference Committee agreed to the House amendments to SB 21 dealing with nominating commissions and agreed to add in provisions of HB 2418 which delays by one year the addition of three new Court of Appeals Judges and makes the change regarding the Judicial Branch budget.