

*SESSION OF 2004*

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2805**

As Agreed on March 31, 2004

**Brief\***

HB 2805 establishes a new city-county consolidated law enforcement act for Cloud and Lincoln counties. Consolidation would occur only following approval of the proposition by the electorate at a general election in November. The proposition can be put before the voters by resolution adopted by the board of county commissioners whenever a petition is presented to the board, signed by 10 percent of the electors of a city who voted for the Office of Secretary of State, with a population of not less than 25 percent of the county, or by petition of 10 percent of the voters of the county who voted for the office of Secretary of State.

The bill provides for the appointment of a seven-member county law enforcement board, the appointment of a county law enforcement director, or for the continuation of the office of sheriff who would act as the head of the consolidated law enforcement agency.

Voters decide both the consolidation issue and the issue of whether the Office of Sheriff should be abolished and a director appointed or whether the sheriff should continue as head of the consolidated agency.

**Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to the Senate amendments to the bill and to a clarifying amendment.

**Background**

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\*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>

The bill was supported by Representative Joann Freeborn, the Cloud and Lincoln county board of commissioners, and by the cities of Lincoln and Sylvan Grove. The Lincoln County attorney also submitted a letter of support.

Two counties currently have a consolidated city-county law enforcement department—Riley County where the office of sheriff was abolished and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, where the office of sheriff continues to be elected but on a non-partisan basis with more limited duties.