

SESSION OF 2005

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 216**

As Agreed to April 1, 2005

Brief *

SB 216 would simplify the process whereby a grand jury is summoned upon submission of a petition of qualified electors. The bill would eliminate the requirement that each petition signer personally add the precinct and ward or township in which the signer is registered to vote.

Conference Committee Action

In Conference Committee, the Senate conferees agreed to delete the provisions of SB 216, as amended by the House Committee of the Whole, addressing disease control and solid waste disposal, and insert the provisions of HB 2529, as recommended by the House Committee on Governmental Organization and Elections, regarding summoning grand juries by petition.

Background

SB 216, as amended by the House Committee of the Whole, dealt with (a) enacting new laws relating to the powers and duties of local health officers and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Environment, including authority to issue and enforce isolation and quarantine orders; (b) giving the Secretary of Health and Environment authority to adopt rules and regulations establishing tuberculosis evaluation requirements for certain students entering Kansas college or university classrooms; and (c) amending one of the statutes that concern the regulation of solid waste processing facilities or the waste disposal area of a solid waste management system.

*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>

With respect to HB 2529, current Kansas law permits a grand jury to be ordered by a majority of the district judges in any judicial district. The same statute requires summoning of a grand jury within 60 days after a petition bearing the signatures of a specified number of voters is presented. Each petition signer must supply his or her address, as well as the precinct and ward or township in which the signer is registered to vote.

Representative Shari Weber appeared as a proponent of HB 2529, as did Phillip C. Cosby of Abilene.

The bill would have no fiscal effect.