

SESSION OF 2005

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2299**

As Agreed to April 28, 2005

Brief *

HB 2299 would amend provisions in the Workers Compensation Act regarding the Medical Fee Schedule Advisory Panel.

The Medical Fee Schedule Advisory Panel

The bill would add four members to the panel as follows:

- A physical therapist;
- An occupational therapist;
- An additional representative of employers; and
- An additional representative of employees.

The additional members would raise the number on the Advisory Panel from the current level of 7 to 11 members.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to retain the change that adds four members to the Medical Fee Schedule Advisory Panel. In addition, the Conference Committee agreed to delete all the provisions regarding the membership of the Workers Compensation Advisory Council.

* 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

Support for the bill was expressed on behalf of the Kansas Physical Therapists and the Kansas Occupational Therapy Association.

The Senate Committee amended the bill by adding two additional members to the Medical Fee Schedule Advisory Panel representing the employers and employees. The amendment was suggested by a representative of the Self-Insurers Association. In addition, all of the provisions of the bill that deal with the Workers Compensation Advisory Council were added by the Senate Committee.

The fiscal note on the original bill indicated that the bill is expected to have no fiscal effect on the budget of the Kansas Board of Healing Arts. Passage of the bill could have negligible effect, less than \$100 per year, on the budget of the Department of Labor, because of travel expenses for the additional panel members. The amended bill would appoint two additional panel members.