

SESSION OF 2005

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2338**

As Agreed to April 1, 2005

Brief *

HB 2338 would authorize the Kansas State Historical Society to provide grants to non-profit groups, state and private colleges and universities, and state or local historical agencies to record the experiences of Kansas residents who are veterans of World War II.

The bill would allow the State Historical Society to award competitive grants to groups to develop and implement programs to record the experiences of World War II veterans. The grants would be awarded on a competitive basis for FY 2006 and FY 2007. The bill provides guidelines for the criteria of the competitive grant awards, and the Executive Director of the State Historical Society would develop criteria for selection as well.

For this project, the bill provides a total appropriation of \$160,000 from the State General Fund to the State Historical Society in FY 2006. The Historical Society would receive an appropriation of \$10,000 in FY 2006 to cover administrative costs. The Historical Society would also receive an appropriation of \$150,000 from the State General Fund for the grant awards. Unencumbered funds would be reappropriated to FY 2007.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to remove the provisions of the bill related to a \$250,000 death benefit to the families of Kansas National Guard members who are killed in a combat area. The conferees agreed with the language of HB 2338 as it had passed in the House.

*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

This bill would allow the Historical Society to fund projects that would record the experiences of World War II veterans residing in Kansas through the award of competitive grants.

Representative Dennis McKinney and Representative Ray Merrick spoke in favor of the bill. Other proponents included the State Historical Society, and several veterans and veteran's groups. There were no opponents to the bill.

The fiscal note indicates the impact of \$160,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2006 for the State Historical Society to fund the veterans' history project. The \$150,000 in grants would allow up to 400 oral interviews to be conducted. The administrative costs associated with this project would be necessary for salary and wage expenditures for a temporary part-time project coordinator to arrange, catalog, and complete the project. The Historical Society noted that administrative costs of \$10,000 would be required to continue the project in FY 2007 and FY 2008. Continuing funding in FY 2008 would allow the agency to make the collection available to the public. The funding would be in addition to the amounts included in the *FY 2006 Governor's Budget Report*.

HB 2338 was amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole to include the language of Substitute for SB 211. The new sections provide for the \$250,000 aggregate death benefit to the family of Kansas National Guard members who die while serving on active duty in a combat area.

The Conference Committee removed the language that had been added by the Senate Committee of the Whole. The conferees agreed that the issue of death benefits for Kansas National Guard members who are killed on active duty in a combat area should be studied further and recommended as an interim study. The Conference Committee agreed to look at death benefits for Kansas National Guard members who have already died in a combat area at Omnibus.