

SESSION OF 2006

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2129**

As Agreed to May 1, 2006

Brief*

HB 2129 would raise the rate of hourly compensation to \$80 per hour, from the current rate of \$50 per hour, for assigned counsel of the State Board of Indigents' Defense. Assigned counsel is an attorney, other than a public defender or assistant public defender or contract counsel, representing indigent criminal defendants on behalf of the State.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the Senate Committee of the Whole version of the bill. In addition, the Committee agreed to resolve conflicting provisions.

Background

Support for the bill was expressed by a State Representative and delegates on behalf of State Board of Indigents' Defense Services, the Kansas Bar Association, a Chief District Court Judge from the Second Judicial District of Kansas and an attorney in private practice.

The Senate Committee of the Whole deleted the phase in structure that was inserted in 2005, and made other technical amendments.

The fiscal note provides that the Board of Indigents' Defense Services indicates that it would require an additional appropriation from the State General Fund in the amount of \$3.2 million for FY 2006 to pay the higher hourly rate. This estimate is based on current assigned counsel caseloads.

*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>