

SESSION OF 2006

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 498**

As Agreed to March 30, 2006

Brief*

SB 498 would require the governing bodies of counties and cities that require electricians to be licensed to adopt rules and regulations requiring all persons receiving electricians' licenses to obtain continuing education. The bill would require the training consist of not less than 12 hours biennially and be approved by the local governing body. The bill states all 12 hours may consist of code update training on the locally adopted code. The continuing education may be provided by the local governing body, a nationally recognized trade organization, a community college, a technical school, or a technical college. The local governing body would be prohibited from imposing a restriction on the number of continuing education providers.

The bill also would establish criteria which applicants must meet before sitting for the standard licensure examination. Those criteria include two years' field experience if applying for a journeyman or residential certificate and possession for two years of a valid journeyman certificate if applying for a master certificate.

Conference Committee Action

The Senate Conferees agreed to the House amendments to the bill, with the following exceptions, additions, and revisions:

- Remove the changes to existing law for plumbers and heating, venting, and air conditioning (HVAC) contractors that would have expanded the list of continuing education providers.
- For electricians, prohibit the local governing body from restricting the number of continuing education providers.

*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

Currently, KSA 12-1526 permits any county or city that requires its practicing electricians be licensed to conduct competency examinations. The boards of county commissioners and governing bodies of cities currently are required to adopt rules and regulations (1) governing the conduct and grading of the examinations; (2) prescribing a minimum score of 75 percent for passage; and (3) fixing a uniform examination fee.

Proponents of the bill included Senator Mike Petersen, representatives of the electrical contracting industry, and a representative from the City of Wichita, Office of Central Inspection. The Committee received no opposing testimony.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to include residential certificate applicants among those who must have two years' field experience prior to applying.

The House Committee adopted an amendment clarifying that the continuing education requirement would apply to all cities granting electricians' licenses, and not just to those granting annual licenses.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to allow continuing education to be provided by a community college, technical school or technical college for electricians, plumbers and HVAC contractors and mechanics.

The fiscal note on the original bill stated passage of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on the state budget.