

SESSION OF 2006

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 52**

As Agreed to May 1, 2006

Brief*

House Sub. for SB 52 would implement a pilot program to exempt two state universities from state purchasing requirements. Under current law, purchases by state agencies above \$25,000 are made through the Division of Purchases in the Department of Administration unless specifically authorized. Under the bill, the Board of Regents would select two universities to participate in the three-year pilot program. The universities selected would be limited to no more than one from a group including the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University. Those universities would be authorized to purchase supplies, materials, equipment, property, and services (including travel) without going through the Division of Purchases. The pilot universities would be exempt from the provisions of the Prison-made Goods Act for the duration of the project. The Board of Regents would be required to adopt policies governing the purchases. In addition, the Board of Regents and the Division of Purchasing within the Department of Administration would be required to report annually to the Legislature concerning the activities and impact of the pilot program.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the House version of the bill and to limit the pilot project to two universities with no more than one coming from a group including the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University. In addition, the Conference Committee agreed to require an annual report from both the Board of Regents and the Division of Purchases.

*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

SB 52, as recommended by the Senate, would have amended a law dealing with retired judges participating in the Senior Judge Program to allow the Kansas Supreme Court to pay the employer portion of the health insurance costs for retired judges.

The House Appropriations Committee substituted the provisions of HB 2980 into the bill along with the following amendments to that bill:

- Change the duration of the pilot program from FY 2006 through FY 2009 to FY 2007 through FY 2010;
- Change the reporting dates that the Board of Regents must report to the Legislature from 2008 and 2009 to 2009 and 2010;
- Include the authorization for the Board of Regents to select two or more universities (rather than two universities as in the bill as introduced); and
- Delete provisions authorizing the selected universities to carry out their own payroll and check or state warrant writing functions.

At the Appropriations Education Budget Committee hearing on HB 2980, a representative of the Board of Regents testified in support of the bill. A representative of the Department of Corrections expressed concerns about exemptions of the Prison-made Goods Act included in the bill. A representative of the Coalition for Opportunity appeared before the committee as being neutral on the bill, but expressed concerns about proposed amendments.

The House Committee of the Whole made technical amendments to the bill.

The Conference Committee agreed to the House version of the bill and to limit the pilot project to two universities with no more than one coming from a group including the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University. In addition, the Conference Committee agreed to require an annual report from both the Board of Regents and the Division of Purchases.

state universities; purchasing requirements