

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 156**

As Agreed to March 26, 2025

Brief*

SB 156 would increase the reimbursement limit for inmate claims paid by the Secretary of Corrections (Secretary) from \$500 to \$750. For claims exceeding \$750, the bill would require an inmate to provide notice to the Secretary of the nature, time, date, and place of the claim. Failure to provide such notice would not prevent the claim from being considered by the Joint Committee on Special Claims Against the State (Joint Committee).

[*Note:* Currently, an inmate with a claim against the Department of Corrections or a specific correctional facility for up to \$500 must first be denied reimbursement by the Secretary before filing a claim with the Joint Committee for consideration. An inmate with a claim against a correctional facility for more than \$500 can file the claim directly with the Joint Committee for consideration.]

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to remove the contents of SB 156, as passed by the House, regarding the crime of unlawful use of a laser pointer and to insert the contents of HB 2212, as passed by the House, concerning reimbursement amounts for inmate claims paid by the Secretary. [*Note:* The provisions of SB 156 as passed by the House are included in the Conference Committee Report for HB 2347.]

Background

HB 2212 (Reimbursement Amounts for Inmate Claims)

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Judiciary at the request of Representative Humphries.

*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. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <https://klrd.gov/>

House Committee on Judiciary

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by Representative Humphries, who stated the bill was suggested by the Joint Committee. The proponent stated the bill would clarify notice requirements for inmates filing a claim and avoid delays in considering claims over the reimbursement limit, provided the notice process is followed by the claimant. No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Judiciary

In the Senate Committee hearing, Representative Humphries provided **proponent** testimony that was substantially similar to the testimony provided in the House Committee hearing. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee adopted an amendment to make the bill effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*. [Note: The Conference Committee did not retain this amendment.]

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2212, as introduced, the Department of Corrections (Department) indicates enactment of HB 2212 would have no fiscal effect on its operations. According to the Department, increasing the reimbursement cap could increase the number of claims settled directly by the agency, but would not affect the overall number of claims filed or paid.

Department of Corrections; Joint Committee on Special Claims Against the State; reimbursement; inmate

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