

State Employee Suggestion Program; Repealing Outdated Statutes

SB 115 institutes a new state employee suggestion program to replace one that expired June 30, 2006; repeals the authorizing statutes that established several committees, commissions, and task forces that either have expired or were abolished; repeals the statute establishing a scenic byway; and repeals requirements for publication of certain reports and specific subject matter for reports that are no longer required.

State Employee Award and Recognition Program and State Employee Suggestion Program

The bill institutes a new state employee suggestion program to replace one that expired June 30, 2006. Under the new program to be established by the Secretary of Administration, employees may submit a suggestion for cost reductions by a state agency. Upon adoption of the suggestion by an agency, the employee or employees who make the suggestion will receive a monetary award in an amount not to exceed 10.0 percent of the documented cost reduction in the first year after implementation, to a maximum of \$5,000 per employee. The state agency retains 10.0 percent of the documented cost reduction, which will be placed in a separate special revenue fund, to pay for the monetary awards. All remaining cost savings will revert to the State General Fund. The bill excludes all elected and appointed state officials from being eligible for monetary awards under the program.

The bill deletes statutory provisions related to salary bonus payments under the Kansas Savings Incentive Program that ended in 2009 when the Legislature concurred with a Governor's budget recommendation to eliminate the program, and the statutory expiration date for the state employee suggestion program that ended in 2006.

Repealing Establishment of the Frontier Military Scenic Byway

The bill repeals KSA 68-1038, which established the Frontier Military Scenic Byway. According to testimony, after repeal of the statutory authority, the byway can be placed under the Kansas Byways Program and the name can be changed to the Frontier Military Historic Byway. Testimony also stated that the change in name will be helpful in applications for federal aid awarded as grants for historic byway projects.

Abolishing the State Highway Advisory Commission

The bill repeals KSA 75-5002 and 75-5003, which authorize the State Highway Advisory Commission. Proponents, who included the chairperson of the State Highway Advisory Commission and a representative of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), said that while the Commission was created in 1975 to serve as liaison between KDOT and the citizens on highway funding issues, such a function can be better carried out in the future by entities with more holistic expertise involving multiple transportation modes.

Proponents also testified that KDOT has been successful in recent years in developing a greater number of methods for communicating with the public and receiving input.

Repealing Outdated Authorization and Report Statutes

The 2010 Special Committee on Legislative Streamlining recommended this portion of the bill after concluding that certain statutory authority should be repealed for entities that no longer were functioning. Among the entities whose authorizing statutes are repealed are the Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance, the Enhanced 911 Task Force, the SRS Transition Oversight Committee, the Task Force on Public Safety Agencies, and the Commission on Surface Water Quality Standards.

Two statutory requirements for the content of certain reports also are repealed: recommendations concerning the use of moneys from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 made by the Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy, and the progress in obtaining goals report made by the Kansas Corporation Commission regarding the conversion of motor vehicles from conventional fuels to alternative fuels and issues related to operating a state motor fleet on alternative fuels. The former provision expired January 1, 2011, and the latter was included in a final 1996 report to the Legislature.