

SESSION OF 2015

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2395**

As Agreed to May 12, 2015

Brief*

HB 2395, as amended, would increase the threshold of capital improvement costs to \$1 million before the Secretary of Administration would be required to convene a meeting of the State Building Advisory Commission (Commission) to prepare a list of at least three and no more than five qualified firms to be considered for the project. Under current law the Commission must be convened and prepare a list when the project costs are either \$750,000 for architectural services or \$500,000 for engineering services. The bill would repeal the separate threshold amounts for architectural and engineering services.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to delete the Senate amendment, returning to the language in the bill as approved by the House.

Background

Established in 1978, the Commission consists of seven members, which includes two *ex officio* members and five members appointed by the Governor. The Commission evaluates and selects firms to be interviewed by state

*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 <http://www.kslegislature.org/kldr>

agencies for capital improvement projects. It collects and maintains current data on construction costs. The Commission establishes criteria and procedures to evaluate the qualifications and performances of contractors providing architectural, engineering, or construction services. It develops and adopts standards for the inspection and acceptance of capital improvement projects. Capital improvement project requests for state agencies are reviewed annually, and an advice report is filed with the Director of the Budget.

Proponent testimony during the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development hearing was provided by representatives of the American Council of Engineering Companies and the Kansas Board of Regents. The proponents stated the bill would reduce the time and resources expended for advertising, reviewing qualifications, interviewing, and selecting design professionals. There was no opponent or neutral testimony.

The House Committee amended the bill, as introduced, by deleting section 2, which would have repealed the requirement for the Commission to publish meeting notices in the *Kansas Register*.

Proponent testimony during the Senate Committee on Ways and Means hearing was provided by representatives of the American Council of Engineering Companies and the Kansas Board of Regents. The proponents stated the bill would reduce the time and resources expended for advertising, reviewing qualifications, interviewing, and selecting design professionals. There was no opponent or neutral testimony.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to reduce the threshold for convening a meeting of the State Building Advisory Commission from \$1.0 million to \$675,000 in the case of engineering or land surveying services. The bill, as introduced, would have doubled the threshold for these services from \$500,000 to \$1.0 million.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, in consultation with the Department of Administration and the Kansas Board of Regents, the bill as introduced would have no fiscal effect on agency operations. The Board cannot estimate a fiscal effect or any administrative savings by state universities.

capital improvements; bidding process

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