

SESSION OF 2011

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF  
SENATE BILL NO. 115**

As Agreed to May 12, 2011

**Brief\***

SB 115 would institute a new state employee suggestion program to replace one that expired June 30, 2006; repeal the authorizing statutes that established several committees, commissions, and task forces that either have expired or were abolished; repeal the statute establishing a scenic byway; and repeal 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 (Section 1)***

The bill would institute 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 could submit a suggestion for cost reductions by a state agency. Upon adoption of the suggestion by an agency, the employee or employees who made the suggestion would receive a monetary award in an amount not to exceed 10.0 percent of the documented cost reduction in the first year after implementation. The employee or employees who made the suggestion could receive a monetary award up to a maximum of \$5,000 per employee. The state agency would retain 10.0 percent of the documented cost reduction, which would be placed in a separate special revenue fund, to pay for the monetary awards. All remaining cost savings would revert to the State

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\* 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>

General Fund. The bill also would exclude all elected and appointed state officials from being eligible for monetary awards under the program.

The bill would delete 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 (included in Sec. 2)***

The bill would repeal the statute (KSA 68-1038) that established the Frontier Military Scenic Byway.

***Abolishing the State Highway Advisory Commission (included in Sec. 2)***

The bill would repeal the statutes (KSA 75-5002 and 75-5003) authorizing the State Highway Advisory Commission.

***Repealing Outdated Authorization and Report Statutes (included in Sec. 2)***

Among those entities that would have their authorizing statutes 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 would be 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 State 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.

### **Conference Committee Action**

The Conference Committee agreed to remove the following contents of SB 115:

- Provisions related to a new process for modifying performance measures and including those measures in agency budgets (originally in HB 2158 and amended by the House Committee on Government Efficiency on the provisions' inclusion in SB 115); and
- Provisions related to the proposed Kansas Advisory Council on Privatization and Public-Private Partnerships Act (originally in HB 2194, added to SB 115 by the House Committee on Government Efficiency).

The Conference Committee added the contents of three bills:

- HB 2221 (State Employee Award and Recognition Program and State Employee Suggestion System);
- HB 2230 (repealing the statute establishing the Frontier Military Scenic Byway); and
- HB 2140 (repealing outdated authorization and report statutes).

The Conference Committee also agreed to technical amendments to bills included in the report.

### **Background**

SB 115 as introduced would repeal statutes relating to the Highway Advisory Commission. The House Committee

on Government Efficiency added the contents of HB 2158 (performance measures) with additional amendments and the contents of HB 2194 (the Kansas Advisory Council on Privatization and Public-Private Partnerships Act). As noted above, the Conference Committee removed those provisions and added provisions from different bills.

***State Employee Award and Recognition Program  
and State Employee Suggestion Program***

These provisions originally were introduced in HB 2221. One conferee appeared before the House Committee on Government Efficiency in support of HB 2221 on behalf of the Kansas Organization of State Employees. No one appeared in opposition.

The House Committee recommended a substitute bill in order to correct a number of technical issues. The House Committee also made other adjustments to the original bill by updating the manner in which the state employee suggestion program would operate and placing new limits on the amount of monetary awards that may be conferred. The contents of the substitute bill appear in this Conference Committee report.

***Repealing Establishment of the  
Frontier Military Scenic Byway***

This provision was requested and supported in testimony on the original HB 2230 by the Chairperson of the Frontier Military Scenic Byway Committee. According to testimony, by repealing the current statutory authority, the byway could be placed under the Kansas Byways Program and then the name could be changed to the Frontier Military Historic Byway. The change in name would be helpful in applications for federal aid awarded as grants to historic byway projects, according to a KDOT representative who supported the action to allow the redesignation. KDOT

administers the Kansas Byways Program. No one presented opposition testimony.

### ***Abolishing the State Highway Advisory Commission***

In the Senate Committee on Transportation, proponents for SB 115, who included the current 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 could be better carried out in the future by entities with more holistic expertise involving multiple transportation mode. They 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***

These provisions originally were introduced in HB 2140. The 2010 Special Committee on Legislative Streamlining recommended introduction of HB 2140 after concluding from its review that certain statutory authority should be repealed for entities that no longer were functioning.

In testimony to the House Committee on Government Efficiency, the Chairperson of the Special Committee supported passage of HB 2140, noting the following findings of the 2010 Interim review of the entities included in the bill:

- The Kansas Natural Resource Legacy Alliance was established in 2002 and submitted its final report by December 31, 2003;
- The Enhanced 911 Task Force was established in 2000 and was abolished on July 1, 2001;

- The SRS Transition Oversight Committee was created in 1999 and abolished on July 1, 2001;
- The Task Force on Public Safety Agencies was established in 2000 and submitted its final report by January 1, 2001; and
- The Kansas Special Commission on Surface Water Quality Standards was established in 1997 and submitted a final report by June 30, 1998.

The 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 were addressed to the 2010 and 2011 Legislatures, and the provisions expired on January 1, 2011. The progress in obtaining goals by the State 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 was included in a final report to the 1996 Legislature.

No opponents testified.

### **Fiscal Impacts**

**Employee awards.** No fiscal note on Sub. for HB 2221 or Sub. for HB 2221, as amended, was available.

**Frontier Military Highway.** The fiscal note indicated that KDOT could absorb any expenditures for signage within its existing FY 2012 resources for the Kansas Byways Program.

**Highway Advisory Commission.** The fiscal note for abolishing the Commission indicated that FY 2012 expenditures from the State Highway Fund could be decreased by \$6,525 if the statutes relating to the Commission were to be repealed.

**Repealing outdated statutes.** There is no fiscal impact associated with HB 2140.

employee suggestion, repealing