

SESSION OF 2007

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
SENATE BILL NO. 114**

As Agreed to April 3, 2007

Brief*

SB 114 would remove statutory employee salary restrictions for both the Office of the Attorney General and the Insurance Department. Under current law, no employee of the Office of the Attorney General may be paid more than the Attorney General, and no employee of the Insurance Department may be paid more than the Commissioner of Insurance, with the exception of two actuaries appointed by the Commissioner. Because the salaries of the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Insurance are set by statutes that are not included in this, their salaries would not be affected by the passage of this measure.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the House amendments to the bill and agreed to further amend the bill by removing the provisions of the bill (relating to fraudulent insurance acts) and inserting provisions relating to employee salary restrictions for the office of the Attorney General and the Insurance Commissioner (SB 214, as recommended by the Senate Ways and Means Committee). The provisions relating to fraudulent insurance are now contained in SB 271, as recommended by the Conference Committee.

*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>

Background - SB 214

SB 214 was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. The Commissioner of Insurance testified in favor of the bill. The Commissioner testified that no other state agencies are required by law to operate under similar employee salary restrictions and that these restrictions, due to the Commissioner's salary level, have resulted in recruiting and retaining difficulties for the Insurance Department. The Chief of Staff for the Office of the Attorney General also testified in favor of the bill. He stated that passage of the bill will not result in a significant fiscal impact for the Office of the Attorney General, but there is disparity between what the Office of the Attorney General is able to pay and what private law firms are able to offer potential employees. There were no opponents to the bill. The current salary for the Attorney General is \$94,957 and the current salary for the Insurance Commissioner is \$82,260.

According to the fiscal note submitted by the Division of the Budget, both agencies indicate that the passage of the bill would have no immediate fiscal impacts on their operations. The decision as to whether to increase staff salaries would be left to the discretion of the Insurance Commissioner and the Attorney General.

salaries; certain officials