

SESSION OF 2007

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2080**

As Agreed to April 2, 2007

Brief*

HB 2080 relates in large part to meals provided to Executive Branch state officers or employees from a source outside of state government. The bill would:

- Allow a state officer or employee to accept a free or special discount meal from outside state government when the meal is provided at an event or meeting where the person's presence serves a legitimate state purpose or interest and the person's employer agency authorizes their attendance;
- Allow these state officers or employees to accept any meal valued at \$25 or less; and
- Allow the Governor's spouse and immediate family members to accept meals provided at an event or meeting when their presence serves a legitimate state purpose or interest.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee rejected the amendments adopted by the Senate that would have eliminated authorization for the Governor's spouse to accept meals provided at an event or meeting where the presence of the Governor's spouse serves a legitimate state purpose or interest. The Conference Committee further amended the bill to add authorization for

*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>

members of the Governor's immediate family to accept meals provided under the same circumstances.

Background

Current law prohibits state officers or employees of the Executive Branch from accepting a meal from a source outside of state government in most instances. A few exceptions are specified in the statute.

The House Committee on Elections and Governmental Organization amended the bill to add the contents of HB 2051. Both bills, as introduced, address the subject of when a meal provided by a source outside of state government may be accepted.

Appearing in support of the original HB 2080 (authority to accept meals valued at \$25 or less) was a representative of the Kansas Association of Public Employees (KAPE). The KAPE representative indicated current law did not allow KAPE to offer to state employees a hot dog as a "thank you" during observances such as Public Employee Appreciation Week. Testifying in favor of HB 2051 were Representative Tom Sloan, Senator Laura Kelly, and officials of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, the Kansas Society of Association Executives, the Kansas State Board of Education, and KAPE. Included in this testimony were comments that the prohibition against accepting meals, when the meal is provided at an event or meeting that serves a legitimate state interest, causes confusion and places a financial burden on Executive Branch employees.

The Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government amended the bill to remove all references to the Governor's spouse from the bill and the underlying statute contained in the bill.

According to the fiscal note on the original bill, passage of HB 2080 as introduced would result in no fiscal effect on the

Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission or its operations.
The fiscal note on HB 2051 indicated the same.

meals provided to Executive Branch state officers or employees