

SESSION OF 2009

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 168**

As Agreed to May 8, 2009

Brief*

House Substitute for SB 168 would require that all funds budgeted for salaries, wages, compensation, and employer's benefit contributions for full-time equivalent positions shall be spent on those specific expenditures and would require that agencies give priority to payment of employee salaries over all other expenditures when a state agency processes payments through the state treasury.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to the bill as passed by the House and amended the bill to add language which clarifies the priority of payments for salaries, wages, compensation and employer's benefit contributions to the requirements, limitations, or restrictions of federal law, including the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and to contracts or other agreements.

Background

As originally introduced SB 168 would prohibit any person who has not been approved officially as a "registered certification authority" to perform any service providing certification of a digital signature unless the person is registered.

A representative of the Secretary of State's Office testified in favor of the bill. According to her testimony, in 2000 the Legislature adopted the Kansas Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (KUETA), which authorized businesses, state

agencies, and citizens to transact business electronically using a variety of electronic signatures. One of those types of signatures, the digital signature, is issued by a third-party provider known as a certification authority. The bill would clarify that registration of certification authorities is required.

No opponents testified.

The Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections adopted a technical amendment.

According to the fiscal note on the bill as introduced, the Office of the Secretary of State indicates the bill would be implemented with the agency's existing staff and resources.

House Substitute for SB 168 was introduced by the General Government Budget Committee. The Committee deleted all provisions of SB 168 and inserted the provisions of HB 2341 and HB 2370.

Salary Expenditures

HB 2341 would require all funds budgeted for salaries, wages, compensation, and associated employer's contributions for full-time equivalent positions be spent on those specific expenditures.

A representative of the Kansas Organization of State Employees (KOSE) testified in favor of the bill indicating that agencies hold positions open artificially to pay for other operating expenditures. No neutral parties or opponents testified.

A fiscal note was prepared by the Division of Budget which indicates passage of HB 2341 would require the Division to certify salary and benefit amounts to the Division of Accounts and Reports each year and maintain such certifications in subsequent years, but could be done within existing resources.

Salary Priority

HB 2370 would require state agencies to give priority to payment of employee salaries over all other expenditures when a state agency processes payments through the state treasury.

A representative of the KOSE testified in favor of the bill indicating that state employees have been the last funded and the first cut and testified indicating the bill would put employees first.

No neutral parties or opponents testified.

A fiscal note was prepared by the Division of Budget which indicates passage of HB 2370 would have no direct fiscal effect.

salaries, wages, compensation, priorities