

SESSION OF 2002

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
SENATE BILL NO. 509**

As Agreed to May 15, 2002

**Brief \***

SB 509, as amended, would amend statutes pertaining to compensation and benefits of state employees, with provisions applied to any state employees covered by retirement, death and disability plans under the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS); to state employees participating in the deferred compensation plan; and to certain health care positions at specified state institutions under the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the Kansas Veterans Commission.

First, SB 509 would revive a 1987 law providing that if the compensation of any state employee were reduced by law, by a voluntary election, or by furlough, then for the purpose of computing retirement or death and disability benefits under one of the KPERS sponsored plans, the original base compensation prior to the reduction would be used to compute benefits.

Second, SB 509 would change references to more recent Internal Revenue Code provisions; would clarify that all state employees may participate in the deferred compensation plan, savings bond deductions, and United Way deductions; and would eliminate obsolete language related to contributions and part-time employees. A technical amendment would correct an error in 2002 Senate Sub for HB 2621 by changing the term "employee" to "participant" in two instances when referring to the state deferred compensation plan. In addition, recruitment bonus payments for new health care professionals would be exempted from a cap imposed in section 169 of 2002 SB 517.

Third, SB 509 would authorize a modification of the pay plan in FY 2003 to provide recruitment incentive packages and salary bonuses for

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\*Conference committee summary reports 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.

physician assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners, registered nurses, physical therapists, and occupational therapists at Veterans Commission and Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services facilities. Additionally, a classification and job rate study of health care positions is mandated, with a report to the 2003 Legislature.

The bill would be effective upon publication in the Kansas Register.

### **Background**

The Conference Committee retains the hold-harmless furlough provision originally introduced as HB 3014, and later incorporated into SB 509 as House amendments.

The Conference Committee adds provisions from HB 3009 that make technical amendments to the deferred compensation law and related statutes. Additionally, a technical amendment to correct a section from Senate Sub for HB 2621 is included.

The Conference Committee adds two new sections pertaining to the original subject matter in SB 509, namely health care professions working at state institutions.