

2007 Bills of Interest

(4-13-07)

The House and Senate will return for the Omnibus Budget Session on April 25th. The bills summarized below have been presented to the Governor for signature.

SB 66 (Approved by the Governor)

Enacts the Kansas expanded lottery act. Certain restrictions and prohibitions are set on employees, their families, and household members. Authorizes the Racing and Gaming Commission to appoint or employ up to 25 unclassified employees as necessary to implement the act. Specifies who may not serve as executive director, a member of the commission, or an employee of the Kansas Lottery.

House Substitute for SB 144

Prohibits employees of the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs from acting as an agent with power of attorney for any claimant.

HB 2067 (Approved by the Governor)

Authorizes the Commission on Veteran Affairs to conduct criminal history checks on potential or current employees. Employees of the Kansas Soldiers Home and Kansas Veterans Home are excluded. Also excluded are employees of the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs who have been employed by the Commission for the previous five years. Prohibits the Commission to hire a person who has been convicted of a felony.

HB 2068

Allows the Adjutant General to appoint law enforcement officers who may exercise their powers as police officers anywhere on property owned or under the control of the Kansas National Guard, areas under the command of the Adjutant General and areas adjacent to them. Defines "TAG law enforcement officer" as a police officer employed by the Adjutant General.

HB 2080

Allows employees to accept meals from a source outside of state government that are \$25 or less.

HB 2233 (Approved by the Governor)

Allows state employees to purchase Department of Corrections' prison-made goods for their personal use. Removes the requirement that all purchases of prison-made goods be made through the Division of Purchases.

HB 2368

Mega Appropriations Bill agreed to by both the House and Senate. Includes the Legislature's proposed Pay Plan for FY 2008. Points of interest are below:

- Agency position limitations (FTE).
- FY2008 Pay Plan consisting of the following components:

- A 2.0% general increase for classified employees, effective at the beginning of the fiscal year;
- A 2.0% merit increase for unclassified employees, effective at the beginning of the fiscal year;
- An \$860, one-time bonus for all regular, classified employees who have had a satisfactory or better performance evaluation, effective December 14, 2007;
- A one-time bonus for all unclassified, benefits eligible employees, to be paid at the discretion of the appointing authority from a bonus funding pool, effective December 14, 2007;
- Funding for an increase to the longevity bonus to \$50 a year for all eligible employees for FY 2008; and
- A 5% (or one pay grade) increase for employees in classes identified by the Hay Group salary survey as being 25% or more behind market, and non-benchmark classes in those class series.
 - The list of classes proposed to receive this increase can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.da.ks.gov/ps/subject/arc/memos/default.htm>
- Creates the 11-member State Employee Pay Philosophy Task Force who shall provide a philosophical framework for the development of the new state employee pay plan. The task force shall submit a report by June 15, 2007, of their activities and recommendations to the Legislative Coordinating Council, Governor, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- Establishes the 11-member State Employee Compensation Oversight Commission who shall review classified employee fringe benefits and focus on the development of a new state pay plan for the classified service. The commission shall develop and submit a new classified pay plan to the Legislature, Governor, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at the beginning of the 2008 regular session.
- Free employee parking on state-owned lots within the capitol complex area (excluding certain garages and areas) that passed in last year's legislature for FY07 was also included for FY08.
- Authorizes the Adjutant General to appoint an unclassified deputy adjutant general.
- Provides funding and FTE for the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training.
- Sets the salaries of elected officials.
- Provides funding for the financial management system. The Kansas taxpayer transparency program for FY2008 is to be developed and implemented concurrently with the implementation of the system. The program requires a searchable web site that includes salaries of state employees. Language from the original bill was moved to this appropriations bill.

HB 2385 (Approved by the Governor)

Abolishes the administrative oversight committee on deferred compensation and transfers responsibilities to KPERS on January 1, 2008. Department of Administration employees who perform related duties shall transfer. Transferred classified employees retain their

classified status. And transfer with continuous service. The board may convert vacant classified positions to unclassified.

HB 2528

Amendments concerning firearms on state property allow any public or private employer to have personnel policies that restrict or prohibit concealed weapons. However, employers may not prohibit possession of a firearm in a private means of conveyance even if parked on the employer's premises.

KPERS Bills

For information on KPERS related legislation, please visit the KPERS web site at <http://www.kpers.org/legislativesummary.htm>