

SESSION OF 2012

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2425**

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

**Brief\***

HB 2425, as amended, would place all school districts, in addition to the Wichita Unified District, under the reporting requirements of the Campaign Finance Act. This would be accomplished by revising the Campaign Finance Act definition of "local office" and by removing school districts from KSA Chapter 25, Article 9, governing campaign finance reporting for certain political subdivisions. The bill also would move campaign reporting requirements for question-submitted elections to the Campaign Finance Act. Finally, the bill would make conforming and corrective changes to related statutes.

**Background**

Currently, only school districts having 35,000 or more pupils (*i.e.*, the Wichita Unified District) are subject to the provisions of the Campaign Finance Act. All other school districts are subject to different reporting requirements as contained in KSA Chapter 25, Article 9, relating to campaign finance in certain political subdivisions. Article 9 also requires reporting regarding question-submitted elections. The bill would move all school districts, as well as question-submitted elections, under the Campaign Finance Act. The Act requires periodic, scheduled reporting of campaign expenditures both before and after elections, whereas KSA Chapter 25, Article 9 requires only an annual statement.

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Representative Jana Goodman testified in favor of the bill. A representative of the Kansas Association of School Boards provided testimony in qualified support of the bill. The support was contingent upon setting a \$500 threshold on the aggregate amount a candidate intends to expend in the campaign. A Wichita citizen, who is also a Wichita school board member, provided testimony in support of moving question-submitted elections under the Campaign Finance Act.

The House Committee on Elections amended the bill to establish a deadline of no later than eight days prior to the election, by which reports of receipts and expenditures related to question-submitted elections must be filed.

According to a revised fiscal note, issued by the Division of the Budget in February 2012, the Governmental Ethics Commission estimates that passage of the original bill — specifically, the inclusion of reporting requirements for school districts — would increase expenditures from the State General Fund by a minimum of \$16, 487 in Fiscal Year 2013, which includes \$3,759 for one-time expenditures for computer equipment and office furniture. The Commission indicated it is impossible to determine the costs associated with the reporting of question-submitted elections. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in the *FY 2013 Governor's Budget Report*.