

Update on Bills, Senate Ethics and Elections, 18 January 2012, KLRD

Ethics and Elections bills passed by the Senate, currently in the House:

- SB 17: Would increase the campaign contribution limit for State Board of Education candidates from \$500 to \$1,000 for each primary or general election. This limit would apply to these types of contributions:
 - The aggregate amount contributed to a candidate, the candidate's candidate committee, and all party committees and political committees dedicated to the candidate's campaign, by any political committee or any person except a party committee, the candidate, or the candidate's spouse.
 - The amount contributed by each individual party committee of the same political party other than a national party committee to any candidate for office, for any primary election at which two or more candidates are seeking the party's nomination.

These contents also were placed into the Sub. for SB 127 but were not included in a conference committee report in 2011; the House substitute for Sub. for SB 127 is the University Engineering Initiative Act.

- SB 145: Would add to the Campaign Finance Act requirements for a disclosure statement in any radio or television ad that clearly expresses the nomination, election, or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office. The statement would have to be spoken, and the bill would specify minimum "approved by" wording for the statement. The statement could be made by a candidate, the chairperson or treasurer or a party or political committee, an individual, or another person as a representative of a corporation, group, or entity. It would delete current requirements related to those ads.

Ethics and Elections bills also in the House Elections Committee whose contents passed in the 2011 Session:

- SB 126: Prohibits a candidate running for public office from appearing in public service announcements or having the candidate's name appear in public service announcements paid for with government funds, or certain specified private funds, beginning 60 days before the primary election and continuing through the general election. Placed into the Conference Committee Report for Senate Sub. for HB 2080.
- SB 128: Delays the date of the next presidential preference primary in Kansas from 2012 to 2016. Placed into the CCR for Senate Sub. for HB 2080.

Bill remaining in Conference Committee:

- SB 129: Voter ID and proof of citizenship at registration. The original bill had to do with filling a Senate seat in mid-term; those provisions were passed in Senate Sub. for HB 2080. House Sub. for SB 129 is very similar to the original HB 2067, including increases in criminal penalties and Secretary of State authority to prosecute election fraud that were not part of the final voter ID bill (HB 2067). Also included in House Sub. for SB 129 are provisions to increase from 14 to 19 days the time before an election during which voter registration may not take place and to require processing of registration applications from voter registration agencies and DMV no later than 20 (increased from 15) days before an election, which were included in the CCR for Senate Sub. for HB 2080.