

January 25, 2016

The Honorable Mark Kahrs, Chairperson
House Committee on Elections
Statehouse, Room 286-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Kahrs:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2506 by House Committee on Elections

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2506 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2506 would prohibit candidates for state office and political committees from releasing statements known to be false against another, identifiable candidate. These false statements could be released via print, broadcast, or on social media. HB 2506 would allow courts to award monetary damages, including injunctive relief, should a violation occur. However, the bill would also allow an individual or committee that knowingly released the false information to redact the statement within 14 days without a violation.

The Office of Judicial Administration states that the bill would have an impact on the courts; however, the exact fiscal effect is unclear. Judges would need to devote time to these new cases and determine if the law was violated and what should be awarded. Additional revenues may be realized as well.

The Governmental Ethics Commission states that the bill would have no fiscal effect on its operations. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2506 is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Carol Williams, Governmental Ethics
Ashley Michaelis, Judiciary