

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2213

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2213 addresses contribution limits and regulation thereof. The bill would increase the aggregate amount that could be contributed to a candidate and the candidate's committee by any political committee or any person except a party committee, the candidate, or the candidate's spouse, as follows:

Office, for each Primary or General Election	Current Law	HB 2213
Offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor (as a pair), as well as other statewide elected officers.	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
State representative, district judge, district magistrate judge, district attorney, or candidate for local office (defined in KSA 25-4143 as a member of the governing body of a city of the first class, any elected office of a unified school district having 35,000 or more pupils regularly enrolled in the preceding school year, a county or of the board of public utilities.)	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
State Senator or member of the State Board of Education.	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,500
Any county officer whose district population exceeds 75,000.	\$ 500	\$ 2,500

*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>

The bill also would increase the aggregate amount that could be contributed to a party committee* as follows:

Party Committee Contribution Limits, for Each Calendar Year	Current Law	HB 2213
To a state party committee by a person other than a national party committee or political committee.	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
To any other party committee by a person other than a national party committee or a political committee.	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
By a national party committee to a state party committee.	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
By a national party committee to any other party committee.	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
To a party committee by a political committee.	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000

* Definitions of “party committee” and “political committee” are contained in KSA 2014 Supp. 25-4143.

Finally, the bill would allow a candidate to receive, but not spend, contributions for a general election during the primary election period. If a candidate does not run for a general election for which contributions have been received during the primary election period, the candidate would be required to return the money to the contributor.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections. Testimony was provided to the House Elections Committee by three proponents: the Chairperson of the Kansas Democratic Party; the Executive Director of the Kansas Republican Party; and the Sedgwick County Clerk.

Neutral testimony was received from the Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission (KGECE), who explained the current contribution limits have been in place since 1990 except that State Board of Education candidate contribution limits were raised in 2012 from \$500 to \$1,000.

The House Committee amended the bill to increase the contribution limit for county officers in large districts, double the limits on contributions to party committees, and prohibit general election contributions collected during a primary election period from being spent during the primary election period.

The fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget indicates the bill as introduced would have no fiscal effect.