

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 27

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 27 would amend statutes concerning allowable uses and disposition of campaign funds, lobbyist and candidate reporting requirements, and disclosure requirements for certain contributions.

Allowable Uses and Disposition of Campaign Funds

The bill would amend the Campaign Finance Act to explicitly authorize campaign funds to be used for donations to any 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization or any religious organization. The change would expand current law, which allows use of campaign funds for donations to a community service or civic organization.

The bill also would specify if a candidate dies with an open candidate committee account containing campaign funds, the executor or administrator of the candidate's estate would be responsible for terminating the committee and disposing of the remaining funds.

Lobbyist and Candidate Reporting Requirements

With respect to lobbyists, the bill would delete the requirement that a lobbyist file a year-end summary report when the lobbyist has spent an aggregate amount of less than \$100 for lobbying in any reporting period during that year.

*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 would require reporting of the date (in addition to the name of the recipient and the amount expended) of a gift, entertainment, or hospitality provided by a lobbyist to members of the Legislature, members of the Judicial Branch, or any employees of the Legislature or Judicial Branch, if the lobbyist spends an aggregate amount of \$100 or more for lobbying in any reporting period.

Regarding candidates, the bill would increase the amount that triggers whether the candidate may file an affidavit instead of a detailed reporting of campaign contributions or expenditures. Under the bill, if a candidate intends to spend less than \$1,000 (instead of the current amount of \$500) and receives less than \$1,000 (instead of the current amount of \$500) for either the primary or general election, the candidate would be required to file an affidavit of such intent with the county election officer. By revising both KSA 25-904 and KSA 25-4173, this change would affect every candidate for election to any state office or office of the following local governments: cities of the first, second, or third class; unified school districts; counties; community colleges; townships; and the Board of Public Utilities.

The bill would remove a requirement a campaign report the industry of an individual contributor of more than \$150.

Background

The bill, as introduced, contained most, but not all, of the provisions of 2014 HB 2296, as vetoed. It would not have removed a requirement regarding reporting the industry of the individual contributor of more than \$150, in addition to the contributor's occupation. (That provision is in 2015 HB 2083.) That bill also would have explicitly authorized campaign funds to be used for donations to any religious organization.

This bill was supported in the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections by the Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission. Her written testimony

indicated staff resources and agency funds would be saved by eliminating the report required of lobbyists. The Executive Director's oral comments were in support of various of the bill's components.

No neutral or opposing testimony was received.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to allow donation of money contributed to a candidate or candidate committee to any religious organization, remove a requirement to report the industry of an individual contributor of more than \$150, and require reporting of the date of a gift, entertainment, or hospitality under the circumstances described above.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Governmental Ethics Commission states enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on its budget.