

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ETHICS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mitch Holmes at 9:35am on Thursday, March 10, 2016, 142-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department  
Darla Conner, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mark Kahrs, Representative 87th District

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

**Informational hearing: HB2213-Campaign finance; increasing contribution limits; contributions received during primary period.**

Representative Mark Kahrs, Chairman of the House Elections Committee and Vice Chairman of the 2015 Special Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government, appeared before the committee to provide information on **HB2213**. He stated **HB2213** addresses the antiquated amounts of campaign contribution limits. He shared with the committee a history of contribution limitations since the creation of the Campaign Finance Act. ([Attachment 1](#)) He said this bill would increase the aggregate amount that could be contributed to a party committee and the bill would allow a candidate to receive, but not spend, contributions for a general election during the primary election period. He suggested that the effective date for this bill be changed to 2017.

Representative Kahrs stood for questions on **HB2213**.

Carol Williams, executive director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, was allowed by Chairman Holmes to address questions concerning **HB2213** from the committee.

**Informational hearing: HB2182-Campaign finance solicitations; legislative session.**

Representative Kahrs appeared before the committee to provide information on **HB2182**. He said in his review of **HB2182** that the four organizations affected by this bill would be the Senate Democrats Committee, Kansans for a Democratic House, Republican House Campaign Committee, and Kansas Republican Senatorial Committee and that they would be allowed to receive contributions during legislative session.

Representative Kahrs stood for questions. Discussion followed.

**Informational hearing: HB2215-Campaign finance; transfer of finance funds.**

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Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Ethics and Elections at 9:35am on Thursday, March 10, 2016 in Room 142-S of the Capitol.

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Representative Kahrs appeared before the committee to provide information on **HB2215**. He said this bill would allow the transfer of campaign funds to a new candidacy for any other office established by the same candidate. It would be limited to state and local offices. He recommended this bill also have an effective date of 2017. Representative Kahrs stood for questions. Discussion followed.

Carol Williams responded to questions on **HB2215**. Discussion followed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.