

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER:

The Committee on **Elections** recommends **HB 2451** be amended on page 1, following line 7, by inserting:

"New Section 1. (a) As used in this section, "public funds" means any state, county, city, school district or other political subdivision funds, including funds derived from taxes, fees or assessments.

(b) Any publication, communication, mailing, advertisement, website, social media posting or other informational material concerning a proposed bond issue that is paid for, in whole or in part, with public funds shall include a fiscal disclosure statement or a link to a state or municipality website or a quick response code (QR) that provides neutral, factual information regarding the financial impact of the proposed bond issue.

(c) The fiscal disclosure statement shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) The principal amount of the proposed bond issue;
- (2) the estimated total cost of the bond issue, including interest, calculated using the expected interest rate at the time that the bond is proposed and clearly identified as an estimate;
- (3) the duration of the bond, including the number of years over which the bond is to be repaid;
- (4) a statement identifying any outstanding bonds or bond-related obligations of the issuing entity, including:
 - (A) The remaining principal balance; and

- (B) the estimated remaining total payments, including interest;
 - (5) the estimated annual debt service payment required to repay the proposed bond issue;
 - (6) the estimated total amount of property tax revenue, in actual dollars, required annually to make the bond payments;
 - (7) an estimate of the annual and total property tax impact expressed in real dollar amounts, including the estimated annual cost per \$100,000 of appraised residential property value; and
 - (8) a clear statement that the estimates provided are projections and actual costs may vary based on interest rates, assessed valuation changes and other economic factors.
- (d) A publication funded with public funds shall not state or imply that a proposed bond issue will not raise taxes or increase property taxes based solely on mill levy calculations, unless the publication also includes:
- (1) The estimated actual property tax dollars required annually to make bond payments;
 - (2) the estimated real dollar cost to property owners; and
 - (3) a disclaimer that explains that a mill levy that remains the same equates to a tax increase due to appraised valuations increasing annually.
- (e) All fiscal disclosure statements required by this section shall be presented in plain language, in a manner that is clearly visible and understandable to the average reader and shall not be minimized, obscured or contradicted by other content in the publication.
- (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the use of public funds to advocate for a bond issue. The information required under this section shall be strictly informational and neutral.
- (g) Any publication concerning a bond issue that is inconsistent with the provisions of

this section shall constitute a violation of this act.";

Also on page 1, in line 35, after "office" by inserting "or ballot issue"; also in line 35, after the second "candidate" by inserting "or ballot issue committee";

On page 2, in line 3, by striking all after "(f)"; by striking all in lines 4 through 8; in line 9, by striking "(2)"; in line 11, after the third comma by inserting "radio advertisements, television advertisements,"; in line 13, after "(g)" by inserting "Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to limit the freedom of speech of any officer or employee of the state of Kansas or any municipality who is speaking in the officer's or employee's personal capacity. This section does not prohibit the state, state agencies or the governing body of any municipality from presenting factual information solely for the purpose of educating voters on a ballot question.

(h)";

Also on page 2, in line 16, after "section" by inserting "including failure to provide the disclosure regarding a bond issue";

And by redesignating subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs and clauses accordingly;

And by renumbering sections accordingly;

On page 1, in the title, in line 4, after the semicolon by inserting "requiring detailed fiscal information to be part of any informational statement concerning a proposed bond issue;"; and the bill be passed as amended.

Chairperson