

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2054

As Recommended by House Committee on
Elections

Brief*

HB 2054 would amend provisions in the Campaign Finance Act to increase limits on certain campaign contributions and eliminate limits on contributions to party committees.

Contributions to Party Committees

The bill would remove annual aggregate limits on contributions to party committees by persons, national party committees, and political committees.

Contributions to Campaigns

Continuing law provides that contributions made by persons, except party committees, candidates, and candidates' spouses, are aggregated separately for primary and general elections, and party committee contributions are limited only for certain primary elections. The bill would increase aggregate limits for each of the following campaigns:

- For the pair of offices of governor and lieutenant governor or other statewide offices, from \$2,000 to \$4,000;
- For the office of member of the House of Representatives, district judge, district attorney, or

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

a candidate for local office, from \$500 to \$1,000;
and

- For the office of state senator or member of the State Board of Education, from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

The bill would increase the amount any person may contribute to any candidate or candidate committee in cash for any primary or general election from \$100 to \$200.

Applicability

Under continuing law, these limits apply to:

- Persons except party committees, the candidate, or the candidate's spouse;
- Individual party committees other than a national party committee making contributions for any primary election at which two or more candidates are seeking the nomination of such party; and
- Persons making cash contributions.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of Representative Waggoner.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was presented by representatives of the Institute for Free Speech, Kriegshauser Law Group, and RFJ Consulting, LLC, and a professor from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. The proponents generally stated the current limits on candidate campaign contributions are low enough to risk constitutional challenges, and that there are no limits to the

contributions a person can make to political action committees (PACs) and 501(c)(4) organizations, so removing limits to contributions a person can make to a party committee will strengthen the party committee's voice in general elections.

A professor from Washburn University School of Law presented neutral testimony, stating narrowly drawn limits on contributions to candidates are important tools for the prevention of *quid pro quo* corruption.

Written-only opponent testimony was submitted by a representative of Campaign Legal Center and five private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, the Secretary of State indicates enactment of the bill would have minimal fiscal effect on the agency, and the agency would use existing resources to update training materials for local election offices and update education and promotional materials to the voting public. The Governmental Ethics Commission indicates enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on the agency and any expenditures that would result from printing new materials to reflect the change in contribution limits could be absorbed within existing resources.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of HB 2045 is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Campaign Finance Act; campaign contributions; political parties