

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2054

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2054, as amended, 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

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 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.

*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/>

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

The bill would apply the contribution limits to:

- Persons except party committees, the candidate, or the candidate's spouse [*Note*: This provision is in current law.];
- Individual party committees other than a national party committee [*Note*: Current law limits only party contributions to candidates in such party's primaries with two or more candidates.]; and
- Persons making cash contributions [*Note*: This provision is in current law.].

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.

House Committee of the Whole

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to limit party contributions to candidates in all primary elections and general elections.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of Budget on the bill, as introduced, 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 the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Campaign Finance Act; campaign contributions; political parties