

SESSION OF 2026

## SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 299

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

### **Brief\***

SB 299, as amended, would prohibit the Kansas Supreme Court and Supreme Court Nominating Commission (Commission) from adopting a rule that prohibits disclosure of the Commission's records. The bill would make records of the Commission, including the names and cities of residence of people nominated to serve on the Commission, open and subject to disclosure. The bill would allow background check and sensitive financial information of applicants or nominees for judicial office to be closed from public disclosure by the Commission.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

### **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Thompson on behalf of a representative of KN Law Group.

### ***Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs***

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of KN Law Group provided **proponent** testimony stating that a current rule of the Kansas Supreme Court makes all records of the Commission confidential and not subject to disclosure to anyone who is not a member of the Commission or

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\*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/>

assisting the Commission, including the names of candidates running for the chair of the Commission. The conferee stated the bill would require disclosure of such candidates' names and would increase transparency during the Commission's process.

No other testimony was provided.

### ***House Committee on Federal and State Affairs***

In the House Committee hearing, no testimony was provided.

### ***House Committee of the Whole***

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to be effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of the bill would have a minimal fiscal effect that could be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Kansas Supreme Court; Supreme Court Nominating Commission; open records