

SESSION OF 2011

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 127**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Elections

**Brief\***

House Sub. for Sub. for SB 127 would make changes to elections statutes concerning primaries, campaign contributions, and candidate treasurer's report filings.

House Sub. for Sub. for SB 127 would, for a school district, city officer, or community college trustee office, require a primary election only if more than three candidates would be on the ballot. It also would require that the names of the top two vote-getters in the primary election be placed onto the ballot for the general election. If the election-at-large method is used, the bill would require a primary election only if the number of candidates is more than three times the number to be elected, and the number on the general election ballot would equal twice the number to be elected.

The bill also would increase the campaign contribution limit for State Board of Education candidates from \$500 to \$1,000 for each primary or general election. This limit would apply to these types of contributions:

- The aggregate amount contributed to a candidate, the candidate's candidate committee, and all party committees and political committees dedicated to the candidate's campaign, by any political committee or any person except a party committee, the candidate, or the candidate's spouse.

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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 <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- The amount contributed by each individual party committee of the same political party other than a national party committee to any candidate for office, for any primary election at which two or more candidates are seeking the party's nomination.

Finally, the bill would eliminate the requirement that candidates for state office file a treasurer's report with the county election office in the county in which the candidate lives. These candidates would be required to file only with the state. The bill also allows candidates for local office to file this report electronically.

## **Background**

At the Senate committee hearing on SB 127 as introduced the Allen County Clerk and Election Official, representing the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association, and the Crawford County Clerk and Election Official testified in favor of the bill. A representative of the Secretary of State also testified in its support, and a representative of the League of Kansas Municipalities submitted written proponent testimony. No neutral or opposing testimony was presented.

The Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections recommended a substitute bill that incorporates extensive technical changes to the original bill but does not change its intent.

At the House hearing on Sub. for SB 127 as received from the Senate representatives from the Secretary of State, the League of Kansas Municipalities, and elections officials from Allen and Crawford County testified as proponents. No opponents testified.

The House Committee on Elections adopted a new substitute bill to add the following into Sub. for SB 127:

- The contents of SB 17 as recommended by the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections, relating to campaign contributions for the State Board of Education.
- The contents of HB 2308 as introduced, relating to the filing of campaign treasurer's reports. This provision was further amended by the House Committee to require that treasurer's reports for candidates for state office be filed only with the Secretary of State, and delete the requirement to file the report with the county election office in which the candidate lives.

### ***Background for SB 17***

Currently campaign contribution limits for other offices, from the same types of contributions, are these:

- \$2,000 for statewide office;
- \$1,000 for state senator; and
- \$500 for a candidate for the House of Representatives, district judge, district magistrate judge, district attorney, or local office.

At the Senate hearing on SB 17 Senator Steve Abrams, a former member of the State Board of Education, and the legislative coordinator for the State Board of Education testified in support of the bill. They said that each State Board district is four times the size of a State Senate district, and candidates experience difficulty raising money for their campaigns. No opponents spoke to the bill.

At the House hearing on SB 17 a representative of the Department of Education testified in favor of the bill. There was no opponent testimony.

### ***Background for HB 2308***

The bill was referred to the House Committee on Elections, but received no hearing. When the bill was amended into House Sub. for S ub. for SB 127 the Committee amended it to require that candidates for state office file treasurer's reports only with the Secretary of State. The amendment eliminated the current requirement that these candidates also file with the county election office in the county in which the candidate lives.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Secretary of State said SB 127 as introduced would have no effect on state revenues or expenditures and could lead to savings for local governments, but the amount of any savings could not be estimated because the numbers of candidates vary from year to year.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the original SB 17 would have no fiscal effect on state revenues or expenditures.

According to the fiscal note, the original HB 2308 would have no fiscal effect.