

CORRECTED
SESSION OF 2011
SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 145

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 145 would add to the Campaign Finance Act requirements for a disclosure statement in any radio or television ad that clearly expresses the nomination, election, or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office. The statement would have to be spoken, and the bill would specify minimum “approved by” wording for the statement. The statement could be made by a candidate, the chairperson or treasurer or a party or political committee, an individual, or another person as a representative of a corporation, group, or entity. It would delete current requirements related to those ads.

Background

Senator Vicki Schmidt testified in favor of the bill. There was no other testimony.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to delete the requirement that a campaign ad on radio or television be followed by “paid for” or “sponsored by” plus the name of the sponsoring organization and the name of the chairperson or treasurer of the political or other organization or the name of the responsible individual unless that information is otherwise required. The minimum wording of disclosure statements was amended to require the statement say the ad was “approved,” rather than “sponsored,” by the person or organization representative making the statement.

*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>

If the bill is enacted, violation of the disclosure statement requirements would make the entity guilty of “corrupt political advertising.” Corrupt political advertising of a state or local office is a class C misdemeanor. Civil penalties under the Campaign Finance Act also could apply.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill states that, according to the Governmental Ethics Commission, the bill would have no fiscal effect on state revenues or expenditures.