

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2314

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2314 would amend state lobbying laws. The bill would change laws governing what a state officer, state employee, candidate for state office, or state officer elect could accept, as well as what a person with a special interest could offer. The bill would raise the limit of the aggregate value of hospitality in the form of recreation that could be offered or accepted in any calendar year from \$100 to \$250. Transportation by ground conveyance within the State of Kansas would no longer be considered a gift.

The bill also would increase, from \$25 to \$50, the price of a free or discounted meal that could be accepted by a member of the executive branch from a source outside of state government.

Finally, the bill would amend reporting requirements for lobbyists by increasing, from \$2 to \$5, the limit on individual expenditures exempted from reporting requirements.

Background

Representatives from Whitney B. Damron, P.A. and the Kansas Grain and Feed Association testified in support of the bill at the House Committee hearing. The proponents indicated the changes in value proposed by the bill were intended to reflect cost of living increases. Mr. Damron also advocated using the rule and regulation process to delegate more authority to the Ethics Commission for accumulating

*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>

and managing the information provided on lobbyist expenditures. Capitol Advantage, LLC, provided written testimony in support of the bill.

The Executive Director of Governmental Ethics Commission testified as neutral on the bill. She stated the Commission likely would oppose the increase in value of individual expenditures that would not have to be reported by lobbyists. The Executive Director also stated the Commission likely would not find the increase problematic if the language was changed to require aggregate reporting of such expenditures.

The House Committee on Elections amended the bill by removing language exempting spouses of legislators and legislative candidates from the dollar limitation for hospitality in the form of recreation. The Committee also amended the the bill by reducing the value of exempt individual expenditures from \$15 to \$5.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill by reducing the limit of the aggregate value of hospitality in the form of recreation that could be offered or accepted in any calendar year from \$500 to \$250.

According to the fiscal note on the original bill, passage of the bill would have no direct fiscal effect on the state budget.