

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

68 West—Statehouse, 300 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504
(785) 296-3181 • FAX (785) 296-3824

kslegres@kird.ks.gov

<http://www.kslegislature.org/kird>

January 20, 2016

To: House Committee on Elections

From: Martha Dorsey, Principal Research Analyst

Re: Summary of Legislation: Bills Enacted in 2015, Bills Pending in Committee

BILLS ENACTED IN 2015

Bill Number/ Sponsor	Description	Final Action; Approved, Enacted Dates
SB 34 S-Judiciary	Creates a separate crime of voting more than once and increases the severity levels of various other elections-related crimes. Provides certain officials with independent authority to prosecute a person for Kansas elections crimes, including the district attorney or county attorney of the county where the alleged violations occurred, the Kansas Attorney General, and the Kansas Secretary of State. (Note: this bill was heard in Judiciary, not Elections, committees.)	S-FA 23-17; H-FA 67-55; Approved 6/8/15; Effective 7/1/15.
HB 2104 H-Elections	Moving election dates: Moves all elections for local government office holders currently held in the spring of odd-numbered years to the fall of odd-numbered years. The elections remain nonpartisan. Exceptions exist for cities, which also may hold elections in the fall of even-numbered years and may choose to make elections partisan (Sub. for SB 171). Filling of Party Candidacy Vacancies: Deletes language that allowed a candidate to withdraw after the primary election due to being incapable of fulfilling office duties and adds language allowing a nominee to withdraw only for medical reasons or because the nominee does not live in Kansas (Original contents of HB 2104). Elimination of Presidential Preference Primary: Repeals the statute calling for a presidential preference primary election and instead requires each recognized political party to select a presidential nominee in accordance with party procedures for every presidential election beginning in 2016 (SB 239, HB 2398).	S-CCR Adopted 22-13; H-CCR Adopted 64-58; Approved 6/8/15; Effective 7/1/15 (2016 elections for spring to fall, presidential primary).

Bill Number/ Sponsor	Description	Final Action; Approved, Enacted Dates
HB 2104 continued SB 70 H-Elections	Filling Certain Municipal Vacancies: Requires a vacancy on the governing body of any city or consolidated city and county be filled by special election when the following conditions exist: (a) The municipality does not have its own procedure for filling vacancies and has not filled any such vacancies within 60 days; and (b) the governing body has not made an appointment to fill the vacancy within 60 days of the vacancy.	S-CCR Adopted 27-11; H-CCR Adopted 66-48; Approved 6/5/15, Effective 7/1/15.
HB 2183 H-Elections	Use of the Internet and Social Media for Campaigns: Permits: (a) a general public solicitation for campaign contributions distributed via social media during the legislative session not targeted toward an individual; (b) the publication of a paid communication via any social media provider with a 200-character limit that expressly advocates for or against an identified candidate for state or local office without identifying who paid for or sponsored the advertisement; and (c) the use of Internet provided by the State of Kansas or a municipality by a candidate or elected official. Lobbyist Requirements: a) Increases the threshold amount below which a person spending money on activity meeting the "lobbying" definition would not have to register as a lobbyist (SB 28); and (b) Requires every lobbyist to file a detailed report listing the amount of public funds paid for lobbying services on behalf of a governmental entity or association of governmental entities receiving public funds (portion of SB 42 – does not include S-COW amendment). Campaign Finance Reporting: Increases the amount triggering whether a candidate for any state or certain local government office may file an affidavit instead of a detailed report of either campaign contributions or expenditures (SB 27). Political Signs: Prohibits a city or county from regulating or prohibiting the placement or number of political signs on private and some unpaved right-of-way property during the 45 days prior to and the 2 days following any election (S-COW amendment; technical amendment in Conference Committee). KGEC Fees: Increases certain fees credited to the Kansas Governmental Ethics fee fund (SB 77).	

EXEMPT BILLS BELOW THE LINE ON HOUSE GENERAL ORDERS *
AS OF JANUARY 20, 2016

Bill Number/ Sponsor	Description	Last Known Version
HB 2182 H-Elections	Campaign finance: Allow any political committee established by a state committee of any political party and designated as a recognized political committee for the Senate or the House of Representatives to receive a contribution during Legislative Session from a registered lobbyist, political committee or person, other than an individual. Also, the bill would allow a general public solicitation for campaign contributions during legislative session not targeted toward a specific individual and which is distributed via social media.	HC-Elections

Bill Number/ Sponsor	Description	Last Known Version
HB 2213 H-Elections	Campaign finance: Increase contribution limits by doubling them in all cases except state senator (from \$1,000 to \$2,500) and any county officer whose district population exceeds 75,000 (from \$500 to \$2,500). (Note: the 2015 Special Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government recommended this bill be passed in its current form.)	HC-Elections
HB 2215 H-Elections	Campaign finance: Authorize the transfer of campaign funds to a new candidacy for any other office established by the same candidate, provided all debt has been retired in the original candidacy. (Note: the 2015 Special Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government recommended this bill be passed in its current form.)	HC-Elections

* The three bills described above were withdrawn from the House Calendar and assigned to an exempt committee prior to Turnaround.

BILLS IN HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016

Bill Number/ Sponsor	Description	Last Known Version
SB 42 S-Assessment and Taxation	Reporting on publicly funded lobbying (Note: Portion of bill's contents enacted in 2015 HB 2183 – lobbyists required to report but <u>not</u> governmental entities).	S-COW
SB 239 S-Fed&State	Presidential preference primary date delayed (Note: presidential preference primary statute repealed in HB 2104).	S-COW
HB 2143 Rep. Ward	Lobbying restrictions; certain elected state officers and executive staff	Introduced
HB 2144 Rep. Ward	Voter registration; affidavit to verify name change	Introduced
HB 2145 Rep. Ward	"Help Kansas Vote Act" (affidavit instead of proof of citizenship to register). (Note: 2015 HB 2104, enacted, contains language stating it is the Help Kansas Vote Act.)	Introduced
HB 2146 Rep. Ward	County election officers; nepotism rule applied	Introduced
HB 2173 H-Judiciary	Supreme court and court of appeals retention elections campaign finance (contribution limits for court of appeals and Supreme Court)	Introduced
HB 2210 H-Elections	County commission boards; expansion of commissioners; special election	Introduced

Bill Number/ Sponsor	Description	Last Known Version
HB 2211 H-Elections	Campaign finance; soliciting campaign funds (eliminate prohibition against [knowingly] soliciting during Session)	Introduced
HB 2251 H-Elections	Elections; ballot on demand; advance voting changes; electronic polling books	Introduced
HB 2274 H-Local Gov't	Nominations for political parties; petitions (reduce number of petitions needed from 2% to 1% of total gubernatorial votes cast; petition must be submitted within one year of date of first petition signature.)	Introduced
HB 2315 H-HHS (has been in H- Appropriations)	Secretary for aging and disability services licensure of certain facilities and standards for treatment of certain individuals	Introduced
HB 2340 H-Elections	Spring to fall elections (Note: this issue passed in 2015 HB 2104).	Introduced

BILLS ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE IN 2016

None, as of January 19, 2016.

MBD/kal