

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2082

As Recommended by House Committee on
Elections

Brief*

HB 2082 would increase the threshold, from \$100 to \$1,000 in any calendar year, below which a person spending money on activity that meets the definition of lobbying would not be required to register as a lobbyist. The current exemption of personal travel and subsistence expenses from this threshold amount would remain intact.

Background

In 2014, SB 99 would have increased the threshold from \$100 to \$500. The bill passed both Chambers but was vetoed. According to the Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission (KGEC) in 2014, the bill was recommended by the KGEC in its 2012 Annual Report and Recommendations. The written testimony submitted by the KGEC Executive Director, both last year and this year, stated the recommendation was made due to inflation, because the threshold amount had not changed since the law's inception in 1974. Orally, the Executive Director testified regarding a specific individual who spent an amount over \$200 on a single newspaper advertisement that met the definition of lobbying, but the individual had conducted no other lobbying activities. The individual had been required to register as a lobbyist. The Executive Director this year also testified the KGEC has no objection to further increasing the limit beyond \$500 to \$1,000.

*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>

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the bill would have no fiscal effect on the KGEC budget now or in the future. The Secretary of State indicated passage of the bill would reduce the number of persons who register as lobbyists, but the reduction would not be significant and there should be no effect on the Secretary of State budget.