

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2184

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2184 would make changes in governmental ethics laws regarding gifts and solicitation of travel and subsistence contributions and lobbyist reporting of small expenditures. The bill would:

- Change the law governing the value of what a state officer, state employee, candidate for state office, or state officer elect could accept, as well as the value of anything a person with a special interest or a person licensed, inspected or regulated by a state agency could offer or give. The bill would raise the limit on the aggregate value in a calendar year of any economic opportunity, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, favor, hospitality, or service that could be offered or accepted from \$40 to \$100;
- Make an exemption to the prohibition against a legislator soliciting any contribution to be made to any organization for the purpose of paying for travel, subsistence and other expenses to allow the legislator to attend and participate in meetings. The bill would make this prohibition inapplicable to any organization or legislator when in-state ground transportation is provided for a legislator to attend a meeting, program or activity sponsored by an organization; and

*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>

- Delete the requirement that a lobbyist file a report that includes all expenditures made in the preceding calendar year when a lobbyist expects to expend an aggregate amount of less than \$100 in a calendar year.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections. No testimony was received.

The House Committee on Elections amended the bill to increase the gifting limits. The bill, as introduced, would have increased those limits to \$80.

According to the fiscal note on the original bill submitted by the Division of the Budget, the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission. The Secretary of State indicates reduction in the lobbyist expenditure reports would be negligible.