

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2212

As Recommended by House Committee on
Elections

Brief*

HB 2212 would amend the definition section of the Campaign Finance Act by adding designated city political committees to the definition of “party committee.”

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections. The Executive Director for the Kansas Republican Party was the sole proponent before the House Committee on Elections. He stated the bill would restore city party organizations, which had been created in 1908, when the first Kansas law was passed to regulate political parties. City party organizations were eliminated in 1992 when the law was changed to remove almost all state regulation of political parties. The Executive Director further stated two active city parties exist today in Johnson County, and these must be considered “political committees” under the Campaign Finance Act, which places them under limits when coordinating with candidates.

The sole opponent was the Chairperson of the Kansas Democratic Party, who stated the organization’s objection was based on the need to strengthen county parties rather than creating organizations that might weaken them. She added the Kansas Democratic Party has had no requests for these additional party committees and has no plan to establish them if the bill were to pass.

*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>

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget indicated the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission. The Secretary of State's Office, which accepts and makes publicly available campaign finance reports, indicated the additional number of reports filed as a result of the bill would be small and could be handled within existing resources.