

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 26

As Amended by Senate Committee on Ethics
and Elections

Brief*

SB 26 would amend the Campaign Finance Act to allow expenses incurred by the candidate for travel and lodging in relation to special events sponsored by any organization, the major purpose of which is to promote or facilitate the social, business, commercial, or economic well being of the local community, to be paid from moneys received by the candidate or candidate committee as a contribution. The bill would add authority for a candidate's spouse to have the same expenses paid using campaign contributions, as well as expenses incurred for the purchase of tickets to meals at the special events (already authorized for candidates themselves). Finally, the bill would broaden the community or communities to which special events under this authority pertain to include the state as a whole.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections. The sole conferee before the Senate Committee hearing, the Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission (KSEC), testified neutrally on the bill, as introduced, indicating the bill might not have accomplished the intent of the sponsor(s) as it was drafted. She clarified the bill would not cover spouse expenses. Chairperson Holmes commented during the hearing that he brought the bill. The intent, he stated, was to allow expenses

*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>.

related to a spouse who legitimately assists the candidate at such meetings.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to clarify that the expenses of a candidate's spouse would be authorized.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the bill would have no fiscal effect on the budget of the KGEC.