

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 27

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Ethics and Elections

Brief*

SB 27 would amend statutes concerning allowable uses and disposition of campaign funds, lobbyist and candidate reporting requirements, and disclosure requirements for certain contributions.

Allowable Uses and Disposition of Campaign Funds

The bill would amend the Campaign Finance Act to explicitly authorize campaign funds to be used for donations to any 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The change would expand current law, which allows use of campaign funds for donations to a community service or civic organization (Section 2).

The bill also would specify if a candidate dies with an open candidate committee account containing campaign funds, the executor or administrator of the candidate's estate would be responsible for terminating the committee and disposing of the remaining funds (Section 3).

Lobbyist and Candidate Reporting Requirements

With respect to lobbyists, the bill would delete the requirement that a lobbyist file a year-end summary report when the lobbyist has spent an aggregate amount of less than \$100 for lobbying in any reporting period during that year (Section 5).

*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>

Regarding candidates, the bill would increase the amount that triggers whether the candidate may file an affidavit instead of a detailed reporting of campaign contributions or expenditures. Under the bill, if a candidate intends to spend less than \$1,000 (instead of the current amount of \$500) and receive less than \$1,000 (instead of the current amount of \$500) for either the primary or general election, the candidate would be required to file an affidavit of such intent with the county election officer. By revising both KSA 25-904 and KSA 25-4173, this change would affect every candidate for election to any state office or office of the following local governments: cities of the first, second, or third class; unified school districts; counties; community colleges; townships; and the Board of Public Utilities (Sections 1 and 4).

Background

The bill, as introduced, contains most, but not all, provisions of 2014 HB 2296, as vetoed. It would not remove a requirement regarding reporting the industry of the individual contributor, in addition to the contributor's occupation (That provision is in 2015 HB 2083).

This bill was supported in the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections by the Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission. Her written testimony indicated staff resources and agency funds would be saved by eliminating the report required of lobbyists. The Executive Director's oral comments were in support of various of the bill's components.

No neutral or opposing testimony was received.

No fiscal note had been issued by the Division of the Budget at the time the bill was recommended by the Senate Committee.