

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 28

As Amended by Senate Committee on Ethics
and Elections

Brief*

SB 28 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

SB 28, as introduced, would have made the same changes as 2014 SB 99, which was vetoed last year – an increase in the threshold from \$100 to \$500. 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>

No other conferees testified.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to further increase the limit from \$500 to \$1,000.

No fiscal note was available at the time the bill, as amended, was recommended by the Senate Committee. The fiscal note for the 2014 bill indicated that similar bill would have had no fiscal effect on the Governmental Ethics Commission.