

January 20, 2021

The Honorable Blake Carpenter, Chairperson
House Committee on Elections
Statehouse, Room 149C-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Carpenter:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2053 by House Committee on Elections

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2053 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

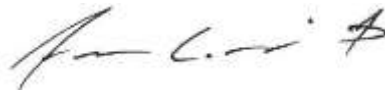
Current law requires reports filed by treasurers for candidates for state office, other than candidates elected on a state-wide basis, to be filed with the Secretary of State. Reports for state-wide office are required to be filed electronically with the Secretary of State. HB 2053 would amend the law to require reports for all state offices filed by treasurers to be filed electronically, but would allow a candidate for state office to request an exemption from the electronic filing requirement, which may be granted for cause by the Governmental Ethics Commission.

The Governmental Ethics Commission reports that enactment of HB 2053 would result in a reduction to expenditures of approximately \$3,000 from the agency's fee fund in odd-numbered years due to cost-savings for data entry temporary assistance. However, because of the pandemic, data entry temporary assistance was not hired in FY 2021, so the first time these savings would be realized would not be until FY 2023. Additional savings are expected as candidates who file electronically would not require paper copies of expenditure reports and would likely require fewer Errors and Omissions Reports. The agency is unable to estimate the amount of savings that would be realized from candidates who would request waivers for cause. It is expected, however, that savings from enactment of the bill would continue to increase over time, as printing and mailing reports would become largely unnecessary and the electronic filing system would adjust to catch more errors at the time of filing.

The Office of the Secretary of State indicates enactment of HB 2053 would not have an immediate fiscal effect on the agency's operations; however, enactment of the bill could have a long-term fiscal effect if additional changes are needed to the current campaign finance electronic

filing system because of all candidates for state office having to file electronically. Also, the agency states with additional candidates using the filing system, it may create deficiencies in the current system that would not otherwise have been found, which would necessitate adjustments to the current system. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2053 is not reflected in *The FY 2022 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Mark Skoglund, Governmental Ethics
Sandy Tompkins, Office of the Secretary of State