

SESSION OF 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2579

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2579, as amended, would require treasurers for candidates for state offices to file reports electronically with the Secretary of State in a form as prescribed by the Secretary of State. The bill would permit such candidates to request an exemption from the electronic filing requirement. The bill would permit the Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission (Commission) to grant such an exemption for cause.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of the Executive Director of the Commission.

[*Note:* The bill contains provisions similar to those of SB 429 and 2021 HB 2053.]

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, the Executive Director of the Commission provided **proponent** testimony, stating the the Commission had recommended electronic filing for multiple years as a way to reduce the number of errors on campaign finance reports, because such reports could be analyzed automatically before submission, and to increase agency efficiency.

*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>

A representative of the Office of the Secretary of State also provided proponent testimony.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to clarify the electronically filed reports must be in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Commission estimates enactment of the bill would result in cost savings for candidates who file electronically, as the agency would not require paper copies of expenditure reports and would likely require fewer Errors and Omissions Reports. The agency expects 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 the bill would not have a fiscal effect on agency operations.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor's Budget Report*.

Campaign Finance Act; Governmental Ethics Commission; campaign finance reports; electronic filing