

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 156

As Amended by Senate Committee on Ethics
and Elections

Brief*

SB 156 would amend the Campaign Finance Act to increase the limits on campaign contributions to the following amounts for candidates for these offices:

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor as a pair, or other state officers elected from the state as a whole: \$3,000 (current limit \$2,000);
- State senator: \$2,000 (\$1,000);
- State Board of Education: \$1,500 (\$1,000); and
- House of Representatives, district judge, district magistrate judge, district attorney, and candidate for local office: \$750 (\$500).

The limits apply to the aggregate amount that could be contributed for each primary and each general election to a candidate and such candidate's candidate committee, and to all party and political committees and dedicated to the candidate's campaign, by any political committee or any person except a party committee, the candidate or the candidate's spouse. The bill also would increase, to the same limits, the amounts that could be contributed by each individual party committee (other than a national party committee) of the same political party as the candidate for a primary election at which two or more candidates seek nomination from the party.

*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>

The bill also would change law governing the value of what a state officer, state employee, candidate for state office, or state officer elect could accept, as well as the value of anything a person with a special interest could offer or give. The bill would raise the limit on the aggregate value in a calendar year of any economic opportunity, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, favor, hospitality, or service that could be offered or accepted from \$40 to \$60 and the aggregate amount of hospitality in the form of recreation that could be offered or accepted in any calendar year from \$100 to \$150.

Background

At a hearing on the bill, no testimony was presented.

The original bill would have increased campaign contribution limits only for candidates for the Kansas Senate, from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections amended the bill to increase limits for all offices regulated under the Campaign Finance Act. The Committee also added provisions related to gifts.

According to the fiscal note on the original bill, the Governmental Ethics Commission stated passage would have no fiscal effect on the agency.