

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2011

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2011, as amended, would revise existing law regarding contribution limits and the regulation thereof. The bill would increase the aggregate amount that could be contributed to a candidate and the candidate's committee by any political committee or any person except a party committee, the candidate, or the candidate's spouse, as follows:

Office, for each Primary or General Election	Current Law	HB 2011
Offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor (as a pair), as well as other statewide elected officers	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
State representative, district judge, district magistrate judge, district attorney, or candidate for local office (defined in KSA 2016 Supp. 25-4143 as a member of the governing body of a city of the first class, any elected office of a unified school district having 35,000 or more pupils regularly enrolled in the preceding school year, a county or of the board of public utilities)	\$ 500	\$ 1,000
State senator or member of the State Board of Education	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,500
Any county officer whose district population exceeds 75,000	\$ 500	\$ 2,500

*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 would also increase the aggregate amount that could be contributed to a party committee* as follows:

Party Committee Contribution Limits, for Each Calendar Year	Current Law	HB 2011
To a state party committee by a person other than a national party committee or political committee	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
To any other party committee by a person other than a national party committee or a political committee	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
By a national party committee to a state party committee	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
By a national party committee to any other party committee	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
To a party committee by a political committee	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000

* Definitions of "party committee" and "political committee" are contained in KSA 2016 Supp. 25-4143.

Background

The bill was introduced by Representative Esau. As introduced, the bill is identical to 2015 HB 2213, which passed out of the House Committee on Elections but did not proceed further. Testifying as a proponent before the House Committee on Elections was a representative of the Republican Party of Kansas who stated the bill is part of a nationwide movement seeking to counter the sizable growth of special interest group money in elections. No other testimony was received.

The House Committee amended the bill by removing a provision that would have allowed the receipt (but not expenditure) of contributions for a candidate's general election during the primary election.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill, enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission or the state budget.