

SESSION OF 2013

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2354

As Recommended by House Committee on
General Government Budget

Brief*

HB 2354 would amend existing law to raise the fees that candidates for state and local offices, political action committees (PACs), and lobbyists pay to the Governmental Ethics Commission by approximately 30.0 percent. Current law requires the revenue generated by civil penalties and fines go to the Governmental Ethics Commission Fee Fund. The bill would deposit that revenue in the State General Fund.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Appropriations Committee. The Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission testified in support of the bill at the House General Government Budget Committee hearing. The Director indicated the agency had not received a fee increase since FY 2000 and the fee fund would be exhausted by FY 2016 at the current expenditure rate.

The Chairperson for the Kansas Society of Association Executives Legislative Committee (KSAE) offered neutral testimony to the bill. The conferee expressed concern regarding the alleged impact of the bill on first amendment rights that increasing lobbyist fees may impose; however, the conferee expressed appreciation for the more balanced approach by the bill in raising registration fees rather than targeting lobbyists only.

*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>

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill, the Governmental Ethics Commission estimates passage of the bill would result in additional revenue to its fee fund in the amount of \$45,555 in FY 2014 and \$36,370 in FY 2015. The Commission indicates the additional fees associated with passage of the bill would be ongoing. Candidate fees are received mainly in odd-numbered fiscal years, while PAC and lobbying fees are received annually. The Commission indicates it has never budgeted for civil penalties and fines and, therefore, cannot provide an estimate for potential revenue from this source for FY 2014 and out years.