

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT BRIEF
HOUSE BILL NO. 2614**

As Agreed to April 2, 2024

Brief*

HB 2614 would amend provisions of election law and the Campaign Finance Act concerning advance voting ballot envelopes, the delivery of advance voting ballots, and corrupt political advertising. The bill would also make technical amendments. The provisions of the bill would be effective on January 1, 2025.

Advance Voting Ballots

Advance Voting Ballot Envelopes

Under current law, advance voting ballot envelopes must include a signature block for the advance voter and a signature block for any person who signs the advance voting ballot envelop on behalf of another advance voter when such advance voter is physically unable to sign the envelope. The bill would amend the requirements for advance voting ballot envelopes by:

- Adding a signature block for the person, if any, who is authorized by the advance voter to deliver the advance voting ballot to the county election office;
- Adding a designated block for the person who is authorized by the advance voter to deliver the advance voting ballot to the county election office to print such person's full name; and
- Adding the statement, to be printed on each advance voting ballot "KSA 25-2437 prohibits the transmission or delivery of more than 10 advance voting ballots by any one person."

The bill would also clarify the language regarding the signature block for the person assisting the advance voter, if the advance voter is physically unable to sign the envelope.

*Conference committee report briefs are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. No summary is prepared when the report is an agreement to disagree. Conference committee report briefs may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/kIRD>

Record of Persons Delivering Advance Voting Ballots

The bill would require each county election officer to record the name of each individual who delivers an advance voting ballot on behalf of another voter and maintain a record of the number of such ballots returned by each individual to the county election office.

If any individual returns more than ten advance voting ballots during an election, the county election officer would be required to file a complaint with the Secretary of State and the county or district attorney for such county alleging a violation of KSA 25-2437, which prohibits the transmission or delivery of more than ten advance voting ballots by any one person.

Corrupt Political Advertising

The bill would amend election crime and Campaign Finance Act provisions regarding corrupt political advertising by removing the requirement to include the name of the treasurer of the sponsoring organization on communications advocating for the nomination, election, or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office. Under current law, such communications must include either the name of the chairperson or the treasurer of the sponsoring organization. The bill would only require the name of the chairperson of the sponsoring organization to be included on such communications.

Conference Committee Action

The Conference Committee agreed to remove the contents of HB 2614, as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole, insert the provisions of HB 2517, as introduced, pertaining to corrupt political advertising, and add new provisions pertaining to advance voting ballots. The Conference Committee agreed the provisions of the bill would be effective on and after January 1, 2025.

Background

The Conference Committee removed the contents of HB 2614, inserted the provisions of HB 2517, as introduced, and added new provisions regarding advance voting ballots.

[*Note:* HB 2614, as amended by the Senate Committee of the Whole, would have amended the Rules and Regulations Filing Act provisions authorizing expedited revocation of certain rules and regulations to require certain notifications be made during the revocation process. These provisions were not retained by the Conference Committee.]

HB 2517 (Corrupt Political Advertising)

HB 2517 was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of Representative Waggoner.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, the Executive Director of the Governmental Ethics Commission provided **proponent** testimony. He stated the attribution must add value to those receiving election-related communications and the bill would not prohibit adding the name of the treasurer in addition to that of the chairperson.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

HB 2517 (Corrupt Political Advertising)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Governmental Ethics Commission states any fiscal effect of enactment of HB 2517 would be negligible, and the Secretary of State indicates it would have no fiscal effect. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

Elections; advance voting ballots; campaign; corrupt political advertising; Campaign Finance Act

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