

**GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION**www.kansas.gov/ethics**Written Testimony before Senate Elections Committee
in Support of Senate Bill 102
by Carol Williams, Executive Director
January 26, 2012**

Senate Bill 102, with its balloon amendments, is a recommendation made by the Governmental Ethics Commission in its 2011 Annual Report and Recommendations. Senate Bill 102 would increase the fees candidates, political action committees and lobbyists are required to pay into the Commission's fee fund.

As background information, the Commission became a fee agency in 1991. The legislature established a fee fund for the Commission to provide supplemental funding for additional staff and other operating expenditures necessitated by legislation which brought all county and first class city candidates under the purview of the Campaign Finance Act. Fees were increased by the Kansas Legislature in 1994 and again in 2000.

Over the past decade, approximately one-third of the Commission's operations have been funded through the agency's fee fund. Recently, the Legislature has begun to use more and more of the Commission's fee fund to offset general fund appropriations. This year, 38% of the agency's operations will be funded through the fee fund. In FY 2013, 40% of the agency's appropriations will be funded through its fee fund. If fees are not increased, the Commission's fee fund will be depleted in FY 2015. To sustain the Commission's current level of operations past FY 2014, the Commission urges your support of SB 102.

Increase In Fees Credited To The Governmental Ethics Commission Fee Fund

Filing Fees for Candidates for these offices:

Candidates Affected	Current Amount	Proposed Amount	Additional Revenue Generated By Fee Increases	
			FY 2013	FY 2014
Governor & Lieutenant Governor	\$480	\$1,000	-0-	\$1,560
Other Statewide Offices	\$480	\$1,000	-0-	\$6,240
State Senator, State Representative, State Board of Education, District Attorney, Elected District Court Judges, Elected County Offices, Members of governing bodies of cities of the 1 st class, Members of Boards of Education of unified school districts having 35,000 or more pupils, Board of Public Utilities of the City of Kansas City	\$35	\$75	\$6,640	\$20,560
Additional Candidate Fee Revenue			\$6640	\$28,360

Fees paid by political committees per calendar year:

Political Committees Affected	Current Amount	Proposed Amount	Additional Revenue Generated By Fee Increases	
			FY 2013	FY 2014
Anticipated Receipts of \$2501 or more	\$240	\$400	\$16,000	\$19,200
Anticipated Receipts of more than \$500 but less than \$2500	\$35	\$70	\$2,625	\$2,275
Anticipated Receipts of \$500 or less	\$20	\$40	\$1,900	\$1,600
Additional Pac Fee Revenue			\$20,525	\$23,075

Fees paid by Registered Lobbyists per calendar year:

Lobbyists Affected	Current Amount	Proposed Amount	Additional Revenue Generated By Fee Increases	
			FY 2013	FY 2014
Anticipated spending of \$1,000 or less on behalf of any one employer (per employer)	\$35	\$50	\$14,625	\$14,625
Anticipated spending of more than \$1,000 on behalf of any one employer (per employer)	\$300	\$400	\$15,000	\$15,000
Employee of lobbying group or firm (not an owner or partner)	\$360	\$450	\$1,800	\$1,800
Additional Lobbyist Fee Revenue			\$31,425	\$31,425