

SESSION OF 2021

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2053

As Recommended by House Committee on
Elections

Brief*

HB 2053 would require treasurers for candidates for state offices to file reports electronically with the Secretary of State. The bill would permit such candidates to request an exemption from the electronic filing requirement. The bill would permit the Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission to grant such an exception for cause.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing on January 21, 2021, the Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission (Commission) testified as a **proponent**, stating the bill had previously been passed by the House Committee and would reduce the number of errors on campaign finance reports because such reports could be analyzed automatically if they were in electronic format.

No opponent or neutral testimony was provided to the Committee.

*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>

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Commission indicates enactment of the bill would result in a reduction to expenditures of approximately \$3,000 in odd-numbered years due to a reduction in the need for data entry temporary assistance. The Commission notes, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such temporary assistance was not hired in fiscal year (FY) 2021, so any savings to the agency would not be realized until FY 2023. The Commission also indicates the bill could result in further savings to the agency. It is unable to estimate the amount of savings but estimates the savings would increase over time as printing and mailing reports would become unnecessary due to electronic filing. The Office of the Secretary of State indicates enactment of the bill would not have an immediate fiscal effect on agency operations, but there could be a long-term fiscal effect associated with any necessary additional changes to the current campaign finance electronic filing system. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2022 Governor's Budget Report*.

Keywords: Elections; campaign finance; electronic filing