

SESSION OF 2014

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2381**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Ethics  
and Elections

**Brief\***

HB 2381 would amend sections of the Campaign Finance Act related to contributions to, and solicitation and acceptance of contributions from certain party committees. The following changes would be made regarding solicitation and acceptance of contributions when the Legislature is in session (after January 1 and before adjournment *sine die* or at any other time):

- The bill would allow any person to make contributions at any time to any political committee established by a state political party committee and designated as a recognized political committee for the Senate or House of Representatives. Currently, registered lobbyists, political committees, and persons, other than individuals, are prohibited from contributing to such committees during Legislative Session.
- The bill would allow the political committees described above to solicit and accept contributions from registered lobbyists, political committees, or persons, other than individuals, at any time. Under current law, such solicitation or acceptance of contributions is prohibited during Legislative Session.
- The bill would allow any legislator, state officer, candidate or candidate committee to solicit

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\*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>

donations *via* social media during Legislative Session, as long as the solicitations did not target specific individuals.

The bill also would eliminate the limits on contributions made by each individual party committee of the same political party, other than a national party committee, to any candidate for office for a primary election involving two or more candidates seeking a party nomination. The contribution limits that would be eliminated are the following:

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor as a pair, and each of the offices elected statewide: \$2,000;
- State representative, district judge, district magistrate judge, district attorney, or a candidate for local office: \$500; and
- State senator or member of the State Board of Education: \$1,000.

## **Background**

Representative Suellentrop appeared as the only proponent of the bill at the House Elections Committee hearing. There was no opponent or neutral testimony.

In 2013, the House Committee amended the bill by adding language allowing general solicitations for donations delivered *via* social media if the solicitations do not target specific individuals.

At the 2014 hearing before the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections, Representative Suellentrop also appeared as the only conferee. He also proposed an amendment to eliminate party committee contribution limits.

The Senate Committee amended the bill by eliminating the party committee contribution limits and by making technical and clarifying changes.

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the original bill indicated the bill would have no fiscal effect on the Governmental Ethics Commission budget.