

SESSION OF 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 274

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 274 would abolish any political committee established by a member of the Legislature and in existence prior to the effective date of this act. The bill would forbid the creation of any such political committee by a member of, or a candidate for, the Legislature.

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

Representative Suellentrop testified in favor of the introduced version of the bill at the Senate Committee hearing. No other testimony was received.

Three political committees would be affected by this bill. All three are referred to as “leadership PACs (political action committees),” or a subset of what Kansas law names as “political committees” pursuant to KSA 2013 Supp. 25-4143, paragraph (k)(1), which reads:

“Political committee” means any combination of two or more individuals or any person other than an individual, a major purpose of which is to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office or make contributions to or expenditures for the nomination, election or

*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>

defeat of a clearly identified candidate for state or local office.

The Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission (KGECE) stated at the Senate Committee hearing there are three leadership PACs instead of four, because the leadership PAC maintained by the House Republicans was dissolved previously.

The Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections amended the bill to eliminate a statement authorizing any funds remaining with any such political committee to be donated to a political party. When questioned on the matter, the KGECE Executive Director indicated currently there are no limitations on what may be done with residual funds other than limits on what a political committee may give to an individual candidate.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the effective date to be upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to broaden the provision that prohibits legislators from creating a political action committee to include candidates for the legislature as well.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the KGECE has reported passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the agency.