

HCS HB 525 -- ETHICS

(Vetoed by the Governor)

This bill changes the laws regarding ethics and campaign contribution disclosures. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Requires lobbyists to file verified registration forms with the Missouri Ethics Commission no later than January 5 of each year or five days after beginning lobbyist activities and removes the requirement that twice a year lobbyists provide the commission with a summary of legislation they supported or opposed (Section 105.473, RSMo);
- (2) Changes the dates when financial interest statements must be filed and designates the commission as the filing officer for all other persons required to file a financial statement for which no filing officer is otherwise specified (Sections 105.487 and 105.489);
- (3) Allows lobbyists and other individuals to appeal a late fee assessment on a disclosure report (Sections 105.492 and 105.963);
- (4) Changes the body to which they may appeal commission actions from the Administrative Hearing Commission to the circuit court of Cole County (Section 105.961);
- (5) Removes the requirement that municipal lobbyists in Kansas City register with the city clerk (Section 105.971);
- (6) Removes the requirement that the commission print and make available a summary of all laws for which they have enforcement powers (Section 105.973);
- (7) Adds the date of voter registration to the list of information that must be made available to the public through electronic media or printout (Section 115.157);
- (8) Moves a section regarding the nomination process for presidential electors by a newly created political party from Section 115.315 to Section 115.327 (Sections 115.315 and 115.327);
- (9) Removes direct dollar amounts from various sections limiting campaign contributions and instead references the section establishing the base amount and the method of computing the biennial increase (Sections 130.011 and 130.046);
- (10) Permits candidates or committees who file with the local election authorities to omit the name and number of bank accounts

(Section 130.021);

(11) Changes references from the Campaign Finance Review Board to the Missouri Ethics Commission (Section 130.036);

(12) Eliminates the requirement of filing campaign finance disclosure reports with an election authority if the reports have been filed electronically with the commission and the candidate has filed a declaration that electronic filing will be used exclusively (Section 130.041);

(13) Reorganizes various sections regarding reporting requirements for out-of-state committees and candidates nominated by political party committees (Sections 130.049 and 130.050);

(14) Changes from \$15,000 to \$5,000 the amount of contributions which triggers the requirement for continuing committees to file electronic reports and extends the requirement to political party committees and campaign committees (Section 130.057);

(15) Moves a section regarding the nomination of candidates from Section 130.050 to Section 130.062 (Section 130.062); and

(16) Requires the commission to hold hearings, study the effectiveness, and report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2006, regarding current campaign contribution limits, independent expenditures, and the regulation of various continuing committees (Section 1).