

HB 1499 -- ETHICS

SPONSOR: May

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 11 to 0.

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 lobbyists provide the commission twice a year 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 individuals 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 it has enforcement powers (Section 105.973);
- (7) 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);
- (8) Allows candidates or committees who file with the local election authorities to omit the name and number of bank accounts (Section 130.021);
- (9) Changes references from the Campaign Finance Review Board to the Missouri Ethics Commission (Section 130.036);
- (10) Removes the requirement that a candidate must file 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);

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

(12) 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); and

(13) Moves a section regarding the nomination of candidates from Section 130.050 to Section 130.062 (Section 130.062).

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Income on General Revenue Fund of \$10,000 in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will make many beneficial changes to the election laws. The provisions which brought about a veto by the Governor on a similar bill last session have been removed.

Testifying for the bill was Representative May.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Jason Glahn, Legislative Analyst