

HCS HB 1170 -- ETHICS

SPONSOR: May

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 8 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding campaign finance, lobbying, and the Missouri Ethics Commission. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Requires most candidates for elective office to file their financial interest statements by March 31 or within 10 days of filing for office, whichever is later. Candidates required to file for an April election must file by January 31 or within 10 days of filing for office, whichever is later. When a candidate receives a political party nomination for an office, he or she must file within 10 days of the nomination;

(2) Allows a lobbyist to appeal late fee charges for disclosure reports under Section 105.963, RSMo;

(3) Requires complaints filed with the commission to contain allegations that are within its jurisdiction;

(4) Requires the first appeal on a ruling from the commission to be heard by the circuit court of Cole County rather than the Administrative Hearing Commission. Appeals may involve all matters except referrals for criminal prosecution;

(5) Allows a candidate committee to omit account numbers from its statement of organization required under Section 130.021 if it is presented to an appropriate officer rather than the Missouri Ethics Commission;

(6) Requires the treasurer of a committee, other than a candidate committee or a political party committee, to file a committee's fictitious name registration or incorporation registration together with the statement of committee organization with an appropriate officer specified under Section 130.026;

(7) Requires an out-of-state committee to file continuing expenditure reports, after its initial expenditure report that must be filed 14 days prior to contributions or expenditures in Missouri, using the same reporting periods in Section 130.046. Requirements for the expenditure report are specified in the substitute;

(8) Lowers the electronic or paper copy reporting requirement in

Section 130.057 so that all continuing committees, political party committees, and campaign committees with contributions in excess of \$5,000, instead of \$15,000, must file reports with the commission; and

(9) Removes the requirement that the commission publish a summary of all ethics laws over which it has jurisdiction and the requirement that a candidate sign a statement verifying the receipt of the summary when filing for office.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will clarify and update various ethics laws to conform to current practice.

Testifying for the bill were Representative May; and Missouri Ethics Commission.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.