

HB 1170 -- Ethics

Sponsor: May

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

(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 bill;

(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.