

SESSION OF 2021

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2052

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2052, as amended, would amend the State Governmental Ethics Law to permit legislative assistants and committee assistants to accept gifts, not to exceed \$150 in total value per fiscal year, from an individual legislator the assistant works for or legislative committee chair or vice-chair.

Background

The bill was introduced in the House Committee on Elections by Representative Bergquist.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing on January 21, 2021, the Executive Director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission (Commission) provided neutral testimony. He testified the Commission only supports legislation that specifically comes from the Commission's legislative recommendations, but the Commission does not oppose this bill. He noted the bill includes a previous Commission recommendation, but because that recommendation was not enacted in the 2020 Session, the Commission did not include it in its current recommendations. He testified the bill would not raise concerns of corruption or improper favor, and the Commission has not taken action against legislative 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>

committee assistants who have accepted such gifts in the past.

No proponent or opponent testimony was provided to the Committee.

The House Committee amended the bill to increase the total value of the gifts that may be received from \$120 per fiscal year to \$150 per fiscal year.

Fiscal Information

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

Ethics;gifts; Legislature