

HCS HB 657 -- ETHICS

SPONSOR: May

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 10 to 1.

This substitute modifies various provisions regarding ethics and campaign contribution disclosures. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Requires lobbyists to file verified registration forms with the Ethics Commission no later than January 5 of each year or five days after beginning lobbyist activities;
- (2) Requires financial interest statements to be filed with the commission electronically rather than in paper form and changes the dates by which financial interest statements must be filed;
- (3) Allows candidates for General Assembly leadership positions to form campaign committees, sets the campaign contribution limits for the leadership committees, requires the leadership committees to file campaign contribution disclosure reports by certain dates, and prohibits the leadership committees from making campaign contributions to leadership candidates' regular candidate committees;
- (4) Changes the language regarding the notice that must be given to subjects of complaints and commission investigations from "actual notice" to "notice";
- (5) Changes the body to which subjects of complaints may appeal Ethics Commission actions from the Administrative Hearing Commission to the circuit court of Cole County;
- (6) Deletes direct dollar amounts from various sections limiting campaign contributions and instead references the section setting the base amount and the method of computing the biennial increase;
- (7) Changes the requirement that certain candidates file required reports with both their local election authority and the commission, to filing with just the commission;
- (8) Requires that candidates for the General Assembly file campaign disclosure reports electronically, beginning on a date set by the commission but not later than January 5, 2005;
- (9) Deletes the requirement that the commission print and make available a summary of all laws over which the commission has

enforcement powers;

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

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

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill makes the campaign finance disclosure report filing system easier to use and more efficient.

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

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst