

HCS SB 593 & SCS SB 594 -- CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND LOBBYISTS

SPONSOR: Scott (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 and lobbyists. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Changes the deadlines for filing personal financial interest statements. Most candidates for elective office must file by March 31 or within 10 days of filing for office. Candidates for April elections must file by January 31 or within 10 days of filing for office;
- (2) Changes the postmark deadline for filing personal financial interest statements to the actual deadline rather than the day before the deadline;
- (3) Extends the disclosure report filing deadline for the period ending on March 31 to April 21;
- (4) Allows committees to omit financial account numbers when filing with any party other than the Missouri Ethics Commission;
- (5) Requires treasurers of committees other than political party or candidate committees to file a committee's fictitious name registration or incorporation registration with an appropriate officer;
- (6) Requires candidates nominated by political party committees to file financial interest statements within 10 days of the nomination;
- (7) Repeals the provision which exempts committees from filing disclosure reports if they have not received more than \$300 from any single contributor;
- (8) Requires out-of-state committees to file expenditure reports according to the same deadlines as in-state committees and specifies the requirements for out-of-state reports;
- (9) Repeals a provision requiring local government lobbyists to file with the clerk of the City of Kansas City;
- (10) Requires ethics complaints to be signed and notarized and to specify the facts that, if true, prove a violation;
- (11) Allows regular mail to be used for notice of ethics

violations;

(12) Changes the appeal process for Missouri Ethics Commission decisions so that an appeal is filed with the circuit court of Cole County rather than the Administrative Hearing Commission;

(13) Allows lobbyists and committee treasurers to appeal late fees imposed by the Missouri Ethics Commission;

(14) Requires a continuing committee to file an electronic report with the commission if it makes more than \$5,000 in contributions during a single year; and

(15) Eliminates the distinction between standing and special committees for the purpose of lobbyist expenditure reporting under Section 105.473, RSMo.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters of Senate Bill 593 say that the bill is designed to make existing law conform to current practice.

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Testifying for SB 593 was Senator Scott. Testifying for SB 594 was Senator Scott.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.