

HB 432 -- Ethics

Sponsor: Kander

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

(1) Prohibits any statewide elected official or member of the General Assembly from soliciting any position, whether compensated or not, while in office;

(2) Prohibits any statewide elected official or member of the General Assembly from registering or acting as a lobbyist within the two-year period after leaving office;

(3) Requires any person employed by the state, by any elected or appointed official of the state, or by any political subdivision or public school district who is compensated for political activities or for consulting on a full-time, part-time, or contract basis to file a financial interest statement with the Missouri Ethics Commission;

(4) Requires the name and address of each corporation for which a person served as a trustee, partner, proprietor, representative, employee, or consultant to be included in his or her financial interest statement;

(5) Requires the source, date, and amount made to a charitable organization in lieu of honoraria to be included when filing a financial interest statement;

(6) Requires a description, the date, and category of value of any purchase, sale, or exchange of more than \$1,000 in real property, stocks, bonds, commodities futures, or other forms of securities to be included when filing a financial interest statement. The identity and category of value of loans and liabilities of more than \$10,000 must also be reported with the exception of certain secured loans and home mortgages. Exemptions for certain transactions between spouses, parents, siblings, and children are included in the provisions of the bill;

(7) Requires a description of the date, parties to, and terms of an agreement or arrangement related to future employment, leave of absence from government service, continuation of payments by a former employer, and continuing participation in an employee welfare or benefit plan by a former employer to be included when filing a financial interest statement;

(8) Allows the commission to impose a minimum fine of not less

than the amount but not more than three times the amount of campaign funds transferred in violation of Section 130.031.15, RSMo, if the funds are not returned within 10 days of notification by the commission;

(9) Changes the penalty for a second violation of failing to return campaign funds under Section 130.031.15 from a class C misdemeanor to a class D felony;

(10) Prohibits a committee from transferring any funds to another committee if the same individual is the treasurer for both committees;

(11) Prohibits a campaign committee from receiving a contribution from any organization exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(4) unless the organization discloses to the commission the name and address of each donor of the organization. The organization may instead provide a list of all donors to the general public on its web site; and

(12) Changes the penalty for a person committing the crime of obstruction of an ethics investigation under Section 575.021 from a class A misdemeanor to a class D felony.