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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson Thompson
Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: March 4, 2025

Subject: SB 177 – Increasing the limits on certain campaign contributions under the campaign finance act, providing for automatic increases to such limits based on the consumer price index and eliminating such limits on contributions to party committees.

Senate Bill No. 177 (SB 177) amends K.S.A. 25-4153 and creates new law regarding campaign contribution limits. Current law sets annual limits on the contributions that may be made to candidates and party committees.

SB 177 doubles the contribution limits for contributions made to candidates or candidate committees for primary elections. There are currently no limits on contributions to candidates for general elections and the bill does not propose to set any such limits. The bill also bifurcates the limits for candidates for local office based on the population of the candidate's electoral district. Under SB 177 the candidate contribution limits for primary elections would be as follows:

- For the Governor/Lt. Governor and each statewide elected office the limit increases from \$2,000 to \$4,000.
- For members of the House of Representatives, district judges, magistrate judges, district attorneys, and candidates for local office with a jurisdiction of fewer than 50,000 the limit increases from \$500 to \$1,000.
- For members of the Senate, State Board of Education, and candidates for local office with a jurisdiction of at least 50,000 the limit increases from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

New Section 1 of the bill provides that the contribution limits in K.S.A. 25-4153 and any other contribution limits set by other statutes are automatically increased every two years. Under

SB 177, on the Wednesday after each even-numbered year general election, the Governmental Ethics Commission is required to publish the average consumer price index percentage for the preceding 12 months. Each of the contribution limits would then be increased by that percentage and if the resulting figure is not a multiple of \$50, then it is to be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$50. The new limits would be applicable for the next two years.

SB 177 also removes the following contribution restrictions from current law:

- Contribution limits on contributions made to party committees.
- Contribution limits on to candidates of the same political party running in a primary election.
- Contribution limits on individual contributions made to candidates.

If enacted, SB 177 would become effective on July 1, 2025.