

SESSION OF 2025

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2060**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Local Government, Transparency and Ethics

Brief*

Senate Sub. for Sub. for HB 2060 would amend provisions of the State Governmental Ethics Law regarding legislators' receipt of reimbursement for expenses related to travel and Executive Branch employees' receipt of tickets or access to entertainment or sporting events or activities.

Legislator Travel Reimbursement

The bill would authorize legislators to accept reimbursement for expenses related to travel, subsistence, attendance, and participation in meetings, programs, and activities of any non-profit, non-partisan organization that does not engage in lobbying in Kansas and would remove the requirement that the organization be a national organization established for the purpose of serving, informing, educating, and strengthening state legislatures in all states of the nation, so long as the funds are paid from the funds of such organization.

[*Note:* Continuing law authorizing legislators to accept reimbursement from governments of any foreign nation, any organization organized under the laws of such foreign nation, or any international organization for such travel expenses would not be amended by the bill.]

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

Executive Branch Employees

The bill would authorize all officers and employees of the Executive Branch of state government, including the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor's spouse, and all members of boards, commissions, and authorities of the Executive Branch to solicit or accept free or special discounted tickets (tickets) or access to entertainment or sporting events or activities (activities) if:

- It is obvious to the person accepting tickets or access to activities that it is not being provided due to the person's official position; or
- The person's presence at an activity serves a legitimate state purpose or interest and the person's agency authorizes, or would authorize, payment for travel and expenses.

Background

The Senate Committee on Local Government, Transparency and Ethics recommended a substitute bill incorporating the provisions of SB 285, as introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs, pertaining to the State Governmental Ethics Law.

[*Note:* The contents of Sub. for HB 2060, pertaining to the duties of the Judicial Branch Chief Information Technology Officer, were not retained.]

SB 285

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Thompson.

Senate Committee on Local Government, Transparency and Ethics

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was offered by a representative of Kriegshauser Ney Law Group. The proponent generally stated the current legislative carve-out for non-profits applied to only a few organizations, and the bill would allow legislators to accept reimbursements for attending a bigger variety of conferences. Further, current law prohibits Executive Branch officials from accepting free or discounted tickets to events even if such activity advances a legitimate state purpose, and the bill would correct that discrepancy.

Written-only opponent testimony was submitted by four private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note provided by the Division of the Budget on SB 285, the Governmental Ethics Commission indicates enactment of the bill could result in savings for state agencies because an outside entity could pay for certain expenses that agencies would not have to provide. However, a precise fiscal effect cannot be determined.

Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

State Governmental Ethics Law; Executive Branch employees