

SESSION OF 2026

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 299

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 299 would restrict the Kansas Supreme Court and Supreme Court Nominating Commission (Commission) from adopting a rule that prohibits disclosure of the Commission's records. The bill would make records of the Commission, including the names and cities of residence of people nominated to serve on the Commission, open and subject to disclosure. The bill would allow background check and sensitive financial information of applicants or nominees for judicial office to be closed from public disclosure by the Commission.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Thompson on behalf of a representative of KN Law Group.

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the Senate Committee hearing, a representative of KN Law Group provided **proponent** testimony stating that a current rule of the Kansas Supreme Court makes all records of the Commission confidential and not subject to disclosure to anyone who is not a member of the Commission or assisting the Commission, including the names of candidates running for the chair of the Commission. The conferee stated

*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/>

the bill would require disclosure of such candidates' names and would increase transparency during the Commission's process.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Office of Judicial Administration indicates enactment of the bill would have a minimal fiscal effect that could be absorbed within existing resources. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2027 Governor's Budget Report*.

Kansas Supreme Court; Supreme Court Nominating Commission; open records