

SESSION OF 2026

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUB FOR SENATE BILL NO.  
66**

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

**Brief\***

Sub. for SB 66, as amended, would amend law regarding filing requirements for statements of substantial interests by local officials and require verbal public disclosure of certain substantial interests. The bill would also amend provisions of the State Governmental Ethics Law regarding information collected about a person examining statements of substantial interest.

***Filing Statements of Substantial Interest***

***When Filing Required***

The bill would direct certain local officers to file an annual statement of substantial interest, in addition to an initial filing. Continuing law requires statements of substantial interest to be filed by candidates for local office and individuals appointed to elected office of governmental subdivisions to file initial statements of substantial interest, and thereafter only if a change occurred in the individual's substantial interest.

***City, County, or School District Officials***

The bill would require elected or appointed officers of a city, county, or school district to file statements of substantial interest annually. For the purposes of the bill, the bill would

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\*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/>

clarify an appointed officer of a school district would mean the superintendent of such school district.

The bill also would require the office receiving a statement of substantial interest to submit a copy of that statement to the Secretary of State. [Note: Under continuing law, the statement is filed in the office where declarations of candidacy for the local governmental office sought or held must be filed, the office of the city clerk or county clerk, as specified in law for the office.]

#### ***Verbal Disclosure of Interest Before Participation in Zoning or Permit Actions***

The bill would require verbal disclosure of a substantial interest by any local governmental officer who participates in the consideration of or decision on a proposed zoning change or permit that may affect the substantial interest of that officer or that officer's relative. The disclosure would be required at the first open meeting such officer attends at which such zoning change or permit is discussed, reviewed, or voted upon, prior to participation in the discussion, review, or action.

#### ***Viewing Statements of Substantial Interest***

The bill would remove a requirement that any individual examining statements of substantial interest fill out a form or sign a register prepared and publicly maintained by the Secretary of State.

#### **Background**

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

As introduced, the bill would have added law prohibiting any local governmental officer from acting on any matter or

participating in the making of any contract regarding a major development project with a project cost of at least \$250,000 if the officer, the officer's relative (defined in the bill as a parent, child, sibling, spouse, or former spouse), or a person with whom the officer has an intimate relationship would receive compensation or profit from the major development project, and providing for prosecution for violation. It would have created definitions for a substantial interest in a major development project and several other terms used in the bill.

***Senate Committee on Local Government, Transparency and Ethics***

In the Senate Committee hearing on February 26, 2025, Senator Thompson and two private citizens provided **proponent** testimony. The proponents described example projects, including wind and solar energy installations, for which potential conflicts of interest or potential for benefits to the local officials were not disclosed and stated the actions of those officials undermine trust in public institutions.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by two precinct committeewomen from Sedgwick County, the editor of the Kansas Informer, and eight private citizens.

A representative of the City of Overland Park provided **neutral** testimony, noting concerns with the scope of the bill.

Representatives of the Kansas Association of Counties, Kansas Advanced Power Alliance, and League of Kansas Municipalities provided **opponent** testimony. They cited concerns with the scope of the prohibitions and the definitions in the bill, specifically for "relative" and "intimate partner," and with the focus on wind and solar installations. They also cited current disclosure requirements and potential discouragement of development.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of Polsinelli Energy Practice Group and the City of Topeka.

The Senate Committee removed the contents of the bill as introduced, amended the bill to add the contents described above, and recommended a substitute bill.

#### ***Senate Committee of the Whole***

The Senate Committee of the Whole, on January 28, 2026, amended the bill to:

- Add school districts to those local entities whose officials must file statements of substantial interest annually;
- Clarify an appointed school district official is a superintendents; and
- Add the section regarding viewing such statements of substantial interest in order to strike the provision requiring viewers to fill a form or sign a register.

#### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, no fiscal information had been provided by the Office of the Attorney General. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill had not been reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

No fiscal note on the substitute bill was available when the Senate Committee took action on the bill, nor when the Senate Committee of the Whole took action on the bill.

Disclosure; governmental ethics; statement of substantial interest; local government