

**GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION**

<https://ethics.kansas.gov>

**Testimony before House Government, Technology and Security  
House Bill 2700 – Neutral (written only)  
By Mark Skoglund, Executive Director  
Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission  
February 19, 2018**

This testimony is provided for informational purposes. The Governmental Ethics Commission does not take a position on HB 2700, as the legislation does not directly affect the Commission.

The original issue that underlies this legislation involves the Statement of Substantial Interests (SSI) form. The SSI form requires certain individuals to disclose business and financial interests. The form is not filed with our office – we are not the repository of these forms, nor are we charged with handling disclosure in any way.

Other than the items that are dictated by statute, the content of the form is created by the Governmental Ethics Commission. Adjustments to that form generally require action by Commission vote. This form had previously provided the optional ability for filers to give the last four digits of their social security number. It appears that this option was originally added to the form as an administrative measure to assist in distinguishing people with similar names.

At the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission meeting on January 31, the Commission concurred with my recommendation, voting unanimously to remove the option to provide the last four digits of a filer's social security number from the SSI form. No other form in our office allows a filer to provide any portion of a social security number. As of this month, no form created by the Ethics Commission allows the ability to provide this information.

While HB 2700 does not affect the Ethics Commission because we do not handle disclosure of these forms, I wanted your Committee and the Legislature to be assured that there are no longer any forms created by this office that permit disclosure of one's social security number in any way.