Session of 2023

## **SENATE BILL No. 260**

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-16

AN ACT concerning elections; prohibiting remote ballot boxes; providing 1 2 for transmission of election-related materials from county election 3 officers to the secretary of state for posting on the secretary's website; 4 allowing a leave of absence from work for advance voting; limiting 5 applications for advance voting ballots to be transmitted by mail to 6 persons who are temporarily or permanently disabled or have been 7 diagnosed as temporarily or permanently ill; requiring a delivery 8 receipt for advance voting ballots delivered by mail and that such 9 ballots be received by the county election officer by 7:00 p.m. on the 10 date of the election; extending the time for applications for advance voting ballots to be transmitted by mail and transmitted in person by 11 12 three days; requiring that advance voting ballots and ballots voted in 13 person be canvassed by 12:00 a.m. on the day following the day of the 14 election and the results immediately reported to the county election 15 officer; providing that county election officers ensure adequate staffing 16 of election boards; limiting the size of precincts to not more than 1,000 17 persons; requiring that persons vote in the precinct of their residence; 18 making the day of the general election a state holiday; providing that 19 signatures of voters on affidavits for federal services absentee ballots 20 shall be notarized and such ballots shall be mailed by the voter three 21 weeks prior to the election; prohibiting communications to the public of 22 preliminary and final vote counts by election boards, county election 23 officers and the secretary of state until the secretary of state has 24 published the results from all precincts on the secretary's website; 25 providing for the security of voting places by the sheriff; requiring that 26 all applications for advance voting ballots be in writing; removing the 27 requirement that electronic or electromechanical voting systems 28 comply with federal law; making certain election crimes felonies; 29 amending K.S.A. 25-418, 25-1119, 25-1122, 25-1123, 25-1128, 25-30 1132, 25-1135, 25-1136, 25-1219, 25-1221, 25-26a02, 25-26a03, 25-31 26a05, 25-2701, 25-2702, 25-2702a, 25-3006 and 35-107 and K.S.A. 32 2022 Supp. 25-4406 and repealing the existing sections.

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34 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) No remote ballot box shall be used by any countyelection office.

(b) As used in this section, "remote ballot box" means any form of 1 ballot box designated by the county election officer as available for use for 2 3 depositing advance voting ballots. "Remote ballot box" does not include 4 any ballot boxes located in a county election office.

5 New Sec. 2. (a) (1) After each general election held in even-6 numbered years, the secretary of state shall be provided election-related 7 materials by county election officers as provided by paragraph (2). Upon 8 receipt of such materials from county election officers, the secretary shall 9 organize and post such election-related materials on the secretary's website 10 in a manner and format that is readily accessible by the public. The secretary shall ensure that the privacy and confidentiality of voters as 11 required by law shall be maintained. All election-related materials shall be 12 13 made available to the public for inspection either in person or 14 electronically on the secretary's website at least 72 hours prior to 15 certification of any election.

16 (2) Each county election officer shall obtain election-related materials 17 from all precincts within the county for submission to the secretary of 18 state. Such election-related materials shall be submitted to the county election officer by election judges as directed by the county election 19 officer promptly following the completion of the canvass and the 20 21 transmittal of election results to the county election officer. Election-22 related materials shall be submitted to the county election officer in 23 electronic format where possible. The county election officer shall 24 promptly organize and prepare such material as necessary and shall 25 transmit the materials to the secretary of state in the manner and format as 26 directed by the secretary of state.

27 (b) The county election officer shall make available for inspection by 28 the public applications for voting registration.

(c) For purposes of this section, "election-related materials" means 29 30 election-related documents and materials including, but not limited to, 31 copies of all chain-of-custody documents, ballots, absentee ballot envelope 32 images, ballot-definition files, system log files, cast-vote records, ballot 33 images, chain-of-custody documents for all parts of the voting process and 34 any surveillance videos of dropboxes, election offices, collection of 35 ballots, counting of ballots or storing of ballots.

36 New Sec. 3. (a) Judges or members of an election board or special 37 election board shall not communicate or reveal preliminary or final vote 38 counts of a primary or general election to any person, group or 39 organization except an authorized poll agent as otherwise permitted by 40 law, the county election officer, the secretary of state or an agent of the 41 secretary of state, until final results of the initial canvass have been 42 transmitted by the election board or special election board to the county 43 election officer or the secretary of state and the secretary of state has

published the unofficial results of the election on the secretary of state's
 website.

3 (b) No authorized poll agent, county election officer, the secretary of 4 state or an agent of the secretary of state shall communicate or reveal a 5 preliminary or final vote count for any primary or general election to any 6 person, except a candidate for office in the election, until the final results 7 of the initial canvass from all precincts have been reported to the secretary 8 of state and the secretary of state has published the unofficial results of the 9 election on the secretary of state's website.

(c) Upon receiving results of the initial canvass of a primary or
general election from all precincts in the state, the secretary of state shall
promptly publish the results of the election on the secretary's website. No
results shall be published until the final vote count of the initial canvass
from all precincts in the state have been reported to the secretary of state.

15 New Sec. 4. For purposes of legislative oversight of state and local 16 elections with reference to this section, "approval by the legislature" 17 means that the secretary of state shall advise the legislature and the 18 chairperson and members of the legislative coordinating council of the 19 proposed adoption of a rule or regulation. The chairperson of the 20 legislative coordinating council shall call a meeting of the council for 21 purposes of reviewing the proposed rule or regulation of the secretary of 22 state and shall advise the legislature of the results of the council's review. 23 The rule or regulation may be revoked at any time by concurrent 24 resolution of the legislature or, when the legislature is not in session or is 25 adjourned during session for three or more calendar days, the rule or 26 regulation may be approved or revoked by the legislative coordinating 27 council with the affirmative vote of the members thereof.

28 Sec. 5. K.S.A. 25-418 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-418. 29 (a) (1) Any person entitled to vote at an election conducted by a county 30 election officer in this state shall, on the day of such election, be entitled to 31 absent himself a leave of absence from any service or employment-in-32 which he that the person is then engaged or employed for a period of not 33 to exceed two-(2) consecutive hours between the time of opening and 34 closing of polls: Provided, That. If the polls are open before commencing work or after terminating work but the period of time the polls are so open 35 36 is less than two-(2) consecutive hours, he the person shall only be entitled 37 to absent himself the leaver of absence from such service or employment 38 for such a period of time-which *that*, when added to the period of time the 39 polls are so open, will not exceed two hours; and. Such voter shall not 40 because of so absenting himself the voter's absence be liable to any penalty, nor shall but deductions may be made, on account of such 41 42 absence, from his the voter's usual salary or wages not to exceed such 43 wages payable for the actual time absent.

(2) The employer may specify the particular time during the day
 which said when the employee may absent himself as aforesaid take such
 leave of absence except that such specified time shall not include any time
 during the employee's regular lunch period.

5 (b) (1) At the option of any person entitled to vote at an election 6 conducted by a county election officer in this state, and as an alternative 7 voting privilege to the voting privilege provided by subsection (a), such 8 person shall, during the period of time when advance voting ballot 9 applications for such election may be filed in person with the county election officer and voted ballots for such election may be transmitted in 10 person to the county election officer for such election as provided by law, 11 be entitled to a leave of absence from any service or employment that the 12 person is then engaged or employed for a period of time not to exceed two 13 consecutive hours for the purpose of filing an application for an advance 14 voting ballot with the county election officer or transmitting a voted ballot 15 16 to the county election officer. If the county election officer will accept the filing of an application for an advance voting ballot and accept the 17 transmittal of a voted ballot during a period of time before commencing 18 19 work or after terminating work but such period of time is less than two consecutive hours, the person shall only be entitled to a leave of absence 20 21 from such service or employment for such a period of time that, when 22 added to the period of time the county election officer will accept the filing 23 of an application for an advance voting ballot and the transmittal of a voted ballot, will not exceed two hours. A voter shall not because of taking 24 25 such leave of absence be liable to any penalty but deductions may be 26 made, on account of such absence, from the voter's usual salary or wages, 27 not to exceed such wages payable for the actual time absent.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b)(1), the employer shall
provide such leave of absence on the day and at the time reasonably
requested by the employee.

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(c) (1) Obstruction of voting privilege is:

32 (a)(A) Intentionally obstructing an employee in his or her such
 33 employee's exercise of voting privilege; or

(b)(B) imposing a penalty upon an employee exercising his or her such employee's voting privilege under this section.

(2) Obstruction of voting privilege is a class A misdemeanor severity
 *level 3, nonperson felony.*

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 25-1119 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1119. (a) Any registered voter is eligible to vote by advance voting ballot *to be transmitted by the voter in person* on all offices and to vote by advance voting ballot *to be transmitted in person* on questions submitted on which such elector would otherwise be entitled to vote.

43 (b) Any registered voter who has a permanent or temporary disability

1 or an illness that has been diagnosed as a permanent or temporary illness

2 is eligible to vote by advance voting ballot to be transmitted by mail on all
3 offices and to vote by advance voting ballot to be transmitted by mail on
4 questions submitted on which such elector would otherwise be entitled to

5 vote.

6 (c) All applications for advance voting ballots shall be made in writing 7 by the voter except as otherwise permitted by law, be notarized and 8 otherwise comply with the provisions of K.S.A. 25-1122, and amendments 9 thereto.

10 (d) The votes of such electors shall be cast and received and 11 canvassed as provided in this act.

12 Sec. 7. K.S.A. 25-1122 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-13 1122. (a) Any registered voter, as authorized by K.S.A. 25-1119, and amendments thereto, may file with the county election officer where the 14 person is a resident, or where the person is authorized by law to vote as a 15 16 former precinct resident, an application for an advance voting ballot. The 17 signed *and notarized* application shall be transmitted only to the county 18 election officer by personal delivery, mail, facsimile or as otherwise 19 provided by law.

(b) If the registered voter is applying for an advance voting ballot to
be transmitted in person, the voter shall provide identification pursuant to
K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto.

(c) If the registered voter is applying for an advance voting ballot to
be transmitted by mail, the voter shall provide with the application for an
advance voting ballot:

(1) The voter's current and valid Kansas driver's license number,
 nondriver's identification card number or a photocopy of any other
 identification provided by K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto; *and*

(2) a statement by the person, or by an individual rendering
assistance to the person as provided by law, that the person has been
diagnosed with a permanent or temporary illness or has a permanent or
temporary disability that prevents them from voting in person.

(d) A voter may vote a provisional ballot according to K.S.A. 25-409,
and amendments thereto, if:

(1) The voter is unable or refuses to provide current and valididentification; or

(2) the name and address of the voter provided on the application for an advance voting ballot do not match the voter's name and address on the registration book. The voter shall provide a valid form of identification as defined in K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto, to the county election officer in person or provide a copy by mail or electronic means before the meeting of the county board of canvassers. At the meeting of the county board of canvassers the county election officer shall present copies of identification received from provisional voters and the corresponding
 provisional ballots. If the county board of canvassers determines that a
 voter's identification is valid *in accordance with state law* and the
 provisional ballot was properly cast, the ballot shall be counted.

5 (e) No county election officer shall provide an advance voting ballot 6 to a person who is requesting an advance voting ballot to be transmitted by 7 mail unless:

8 (1) The person, or an individual rendering assistance to the person 9 as provided by law, states that the person has been diagnosed with a 10 permanent or temporary illness or has a permanent or temporary 11 disability. The signature of the person, or the signature of an individual 12 rendering assistance to the person as provided by law, shall be notarized;

(2) the county election official verifies that the signature of the person 13 14 matches that on file in the county voter registration records, except that verification of the voter's signature shall not be required if a voter has a 15 16 disability preventing the voter from signing. Signature verification-may 17 shall occur by electronic device or by human inspection. In the event that 18 the signature of a person who is requesting an advance voting ballot does 19 not match that on file, the county election officer shall attempt to contact 20 the person and shall offer the person another opportunity to provide the 21 person's signature for the purposes of verifying the person's identity. If the 22 county election officer is unable to reach the person, the county election 23 officer may transmit a provisional ballot, however, such provisional ballot 24 may shall not be counted unless a signature is included therewith that can be verified; and 25

26  $\frac{(2)}{(3)}$  the person provides such person's full Kansas driver's license 27 number, Kansas nondriver's identification card number issued by the 28 division of vehicles, or submits such person's application for an advance 29 voting ballot and a copy of identification provided by K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto, to the county election officer for verification. If a 30 31 person applies for an advance voting ballot to be transmitted by mail but 32 fails to provide identification pursuant to this subsection or the 33 identification of the person cannot be verified by the county election 34 officer, the county election officer shall provide information to the person regarding the voter rights provisions of subsection (d) and shall provide 35 36 the person an opportunity to provide identification pursuant to this 37 subsection. For the purposes of this act, Kansas state offices and offices of 38 any subdivision of the state will allow any person seeking to vote by an 39 advance voting ballot the use of a photocopying device to make one 40 photocopy of an identification document at no cost.

41 (f) Applications for advance voting ballots to be transmitted to the 42 voter by mail shall be filed only at the following times:

43 (1) For the primary election occurring on the first Tuesday in August

in both even-numbered and odd-numbered years, between April 1 of suchyear and the Tuesday of the week preceding such primary election.

3 (2) For the general election occurring on the Tuesday following the 4 first Monday in November in both even-numbered and odd-numbered 5 years, between-90 93 days prior to such election and the Tuesday of the 6 week preceding such general election.

7 (3) For question submitted elections occurring on the date of a primary or general election, the same as is provided for ballots for election 9 of officers at such election.

(4) For question submitted elections not occurring on the date of a
primary or general election, between the time of the first published notice
thereof and the Tuesday of the week preceding such question submitted
election, except that if the question submitted election is held on a day
other than a Tuesday, the final date for mailing of advance voting ballots
shall be one week before such election.

16 (5) For any special election of officers, at such time as is specified by17 the secretary of state.

The county election officer of any county may receive applications prior to the time specified in this subsection and hold such applications until the beginning of the prescribed application period. Such applications shall be treated as filed on that date.

22 (g) Unless an earlier date is designated by the county election office, 23 applications for advance voting ballots transmitted to the voter in person in 24 the office of the county election officer shall be filed on the Tuesday next 25 preceding the election and on each subsequent business day until no later 26 than between 10 days prior to such election and 12 noon on the day preceding such election. If the county election officer so provides, 27 28 applications for advance voting ballots transmitted to the voter in person in 29 the office of the county election officer also may be filed on the Saturday preceding the election. Upon receipt of any such properly executed 30 31 application, the county election officer shall deliver to the voter such 32 ballots and instructions as are provided for in this act.

An application for an advance voting ballot filed by a voter who has a temporary illness or disability or who is not proficient in reading the <u>English language or</u> by a person rendering assistance to such voter may be filed during the regular advance ballot application periods until the close of the polls on election day.

The county election officer may designate places other than the central county election office as satellite advance voting sites. At any satellite advance voting site, a registered voter may obtain an application foradvance voting ballots. Ballots and instructions shall be delivered to the voter in the same manner and subject to the same limitations as otherwise provided by this subsection.

1 (h) Any person having a permanent disability *that prevents the* 2 person from voting in person at the voting place or an illness that has been 3 diagnosed as a permanent illness is hereby authorized to make an 4 application for permanent advance voting status. Applications for 5 permanent advance voting status shall be in the form and contain such 6 information as is required for application for advance voting ballots and 7 also shall contain information that establishes the voter's right to 8 permanent advance voting status. With respect to a person having a 9 permanent disability, such information shall include a written statement 10 from a physician attesting to the person's disability and that such disability prevents the person from voting in person. 11

12 (i) On receipt of any application filed under the provisions of this 13 section, the county election officer shall prepare and maintain in such 14 officer's office a list of the names of all persons who have filed such 15 applications, together with their correct post office address and the 16 precinct, ward, township or voting area in which the persons claim to be 17 registered voters or to be authorized by law to vote as former precinct 18 residents and the present resident address of each applicant. Names and 19 addresses shall remain so listed until the day of such election. The county 20 election officer shall maintain a separate listing of the names and addresses 21 of persons qualifying for permanent advance voting status. All such lists 22 shall be available for inspection upon request in compliance with this 23 subsection by any registered voter during regular business hours. The 24 county election officer upon receipt of the applications shall enter upon a 25 record kept by such officer the name and address of each applicant, which 26 record shall conform to the list above required. Before inspection of any 27 advance voting ballot application list, the person desiring to make the 28 inspection shall provide to the county election officer identification in the 29 form of driver's license or other reliable identification and shall sign a log 30 book or application form maintained by the officer stating the person's 31 name and address and showing the date and time of inspection. All records 32 made by the county election officer shall be subject to public inspection, 33 except that the voter identification information required by subsections (b) 34 and (c) and the identifying number on ballots and ballot envelopes and 35 records of such numbers shall not be made public.

36 (j) If a person on the permanent advance voting list fails to vote in 37 four two consecutive general elections held on the Tuesday succeeding the 38 first Monday in November of each even-numbered and odd-numbered 39 year, the county election officer may mail a notice to such voter. The 40 notice shall inform the voter that the voter's name will be removed from 41 the permanent advance voting list unless the voter renews the application 42 for permanent advance voting status within 30 days after the notice is 43 mailed. If the voter fails to renew such application, the county election

officer shall remove the voter's name from the permanent advance voting
 list. Failure to renew the application for permanent advance voting status
 shall-not result in removal of the voter's name from the voter registration
 list

5 (k) (1) Any person who solicits by mail a registered voter to file an application for an advance voting ballot and includes an application for an advance voting ballot in such mailing shall include on the exterior of such mailing, and on each page contained therein, except the application, a clear and conspicuous label in 14-point font or larger that includes:

10 (A) The name of the individual or organization that caused such 11 solicitation to be mailed;

(B) if an organization, the name of the president, chief executiveofficer or executive director of such organization;

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(C) the address of such individual or organization; and

15 (D) the following statement: "Disclosure: This is not a government 16 mailing. It is from a private individual or organization. *This application for an advance voting ballot must be submitted in person at the office of the county election officer, except that a person submitting this application who has been diagnosed as permanently or temporarily ill or is permanently or temporarily disabled may submit this application by mail.*"

(2) The application for an advance voting ballot included in such
 mailing shall be the official application for advance ballot by mail
 provided by the secretary of state. No portion of such application shall be
 completed prior to mailing such application to the registered voter.

(3) An application for an advance voting ballot shall include an envelope addressed to the appropriate county election office for the mailing of such application. In no case shall the person who mails the application to the voter direct that the completed application be returned to such person.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to:

31 (A) the secretary of state or any election official or county election
 32 office; or

(B) the official protection and advocacy for voting access agency for
 this state as designated pursuant to the federal help America vote act of
 2002, public law 107-252, or any other entity required to provide information concerning elections and voting procedures by federal law.

37 (5) A violation of this subsection is a class C severity level 3,
38 nonperson misdemeanor felony.

(1) (1) No person shall mail or cause to be mailed an application for
an advance voting ballot, unless such person is a resident of this state or is
otherwise domiciled in this state and the person has been diagnosed as
permanently or temporarily ill or is permanently or temporarily disabled.
A person who is permanently or temporarily disabled shall provide a

written statement from a physician attesting to the person's disability and
 that such disability prevents the person from voting in person .

3 (2) Any individual may file a complaint in writing with the attorney 4 general alleging a violation of this subsection. Such complaint shall 5 include the name of the person alleged to have violated this subsection and 6 any other information as required by the attorney general. Upon receipt of 7 a complaint, the attorney general shall investigate and-may *shall* file an 8 action against any person found to have violated this subsection.

9 (3) Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection is 10 subject to a civil penalty of \$20. Each instance in which a person mails an 11 application for an advance voting ballot in violation of this section shall 12 constitute a separate violation.

13 (m) The secretary of state *with approval of the legislature as* 14 *provided by section 4, and amendments thereto,* may adopt rules and 15 regulations in order to implement the provisions of this section and to 16 define valid forms of identification.

17 K.S.A. 25-1123 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-Sec. 8. 18 1123. (a) When an application for an advance voting ballot has been filed 19 and approved in accordance with K.S.A. 25-1122, and amendments 20 thereto, the county election officer shall transmit to the voter applying 21 therefor one each of the appropriate ballots. Unless an advance voting 22 ballot is transmitted in person pursuant to this subsection, the county 23 election officer shall transmit the advance voting ballots to the voter at one 24 of the following addresses as specified by the voter on such application: 25 (1) The voter's residential address or mailing address as indicated on the 26 registration list; (2) the voter's temporary residential address; or (3) a 27 medical care facility as defined in K.S.A. 65-425, and amendments 28 thereto, psychiatric hospital, hospice or adult care home where the voter 29 resides. No advance voting ballot shall be transmitted by the county election officer by any means prior to the  $-20^{\text{th}} 23^{rd}$  day before the election 30 31 for which an application for an advance voting ballot has been received by 32 such county election officer. If the advance voting ballot is transmitted by 33 mail, such ballot shall be transmitted with printed instructions prescribed 34 by the secretary of state and a ballot envelope bearing upon the outside a 35 printed form as described in K.S.A. 25-1120, and amendments thereto, and 36 the same number as the number of the ballot. If the advance voting ballot 37 is transmitted to the applicant in person in the office of the county election 38 officer or at a satellite advance voting site, such advance voting ballot and 39 printed instructions shall be transmitted in an advance voting ballot 40 envelope bearing upon the outside a printed form as described in K.S.A. 25-1120, and amendments thereto, and the same number as the number of 41 42 the ballot unless the voter elects to deposit the advance voting ballot into a 43 locked ballot box without an envelope. All ballots shall be transmitted to

the advance voting voter not more than-20 23 days before the election but within two business days of the receipt of such voter's application by the election officer or the commencement of such-20-day 23-day period. In primary elections required to be conducted on a partisan basis, the election officer shall deliver to such voter the ballot of the political party of the applicant.

7 (b) The restrictions in subsection (a) relating to where a county-8 election officer may transmit an advance voting ballot shall not apply to an 9 advance voting ballot requested pursuant to An application for an advance 10 voting ballot-filed by a voter who has a temporary illness or disability or who is not proficient in reading the English language shall require an 11 official stamp or signature of the election officer signifying approval of the 12 application. A record of each application and approval by the county 13 election officer shall be maintained and made available for inspection by 14 15 the public.

16 (c) The county election officer shall compare the driver's license 17 number, nondriver's identification card number or copy of other valid 18 identification provided by a voter to the voter registration list verified by 19 the division of vehicles in accordance with federal law. If no identification 20 information was provided by the voter or if such information does not 21 match the information on the voter registration list, the county election 22 officer shall transmit a provisional advance voting ballot.

Sec. 9. K.S.A. 25-1128 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1128. (a) No voter shall knowingly mark or transmit to the county election officer more than one advance voting ballot, or set of one of each kind of ballot, if the voter is entitled to vote more than one such ballot at a particular election.

28 (b) Except as provided in K.S.A. 25-1124, and amendments thereto, 29 no person shall knowingly interfere with or delay the transmission of any 30 advance voting ballot application from a voter to the county election 31 officer, nor shall any person mail, fax or otherwise cause the application to 32 be sent to a place other than the county election office. Any person or 33 group engaged in the distribution of advance voting ballot applications 34 shall mail, fax or otherwise deliver any application signed by a voter to the 35 county election office within two days after such application is signed by 36 the applicant or the application shall be void.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by law, no person other than the
voter, shall knowingly mark, sign or transmit to the county election officer
any advance voting ballot or advance voting ballot envelope.

40 (d) Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall knowingly
41 sign an application for an advance voting ballot for another person. This
42 provision shall not apply if a voter has a disability preventing the voter
43 from signing an application or if an immediate family member signs an

 application on behalf of another immediate family member with proper authorization being given.

3 (e) No person, unless authorized by K.S.A. 25-1122 or 25-1124, and 4 amendments thereto, shall knowingly intercept, interfere with, or delay the 5 transmission of advance voting ballots from the county election officer to 6 the voter.

(f) No person shall knowingly and falsely affirm, declare or subscribe
to any material fact in an affirmation form for an advance voting ballot or
set of advance voting ballots.

10 (g) A voter may return such voter's advance voting ballot to the county election officer by personal delivery or by mail. If returning an 11 advance voting ballot by mail, a voter, or person rendering assistance to 12 such voter as provided by law, shall mail such ballot using the United 13 States postal service or any other delivery service that provides a receipt 14 indicating that the ballot was mailed and allowing the voter to verify that 15 16 the ballot was delivered. Subject to the provisions of K.S.A. 25-2437, and 17 amendments thereto, a person other than the voter may return the advance voting ballot by personal delivery or mail if authorized by the voter in 18 19 writing as provided in K.S.A. 25-2437, and amendments thereto, except 20 that a written designation shall not be required from a voter who has a 21 disability preventing the voter from writing or signing a written 22 designation. Any such person designated by the voter shall sign a 23 statement in accordance with K.S.A. 25-2437, and amendments thereto.

(h) Except as otherwise provided by federal law, no person shall
knowingly backdate or otherwise alter a postmark or other official
indication of the date of mailing of an advance voting ballot returned to the
county election officer by mail for the purpose of indicating a date of
mailing other than the actual date of mailing by the voter or the voter's
designee.

(i) Violation of any provision of this section is a severity level-9 3,
nonperson felony.

Sec. 10. K.S.A. 25-1132 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1132. (a) All advance voting ballots that are received in the office of the county election officer or any polling place within the county not later than the hour for closing of the polls on the date of any election specified in K.S.A. 25-1122(f), and amendments thereto, shall be delivered by the county election officer to the appropriate special election board provided for in K.S.A. 25-1133, and amendments thereto.

(b) Subject to the deadline for receipt by the office of the countyelection officer as set forth in this subsection, all advance voting ballots
received by mail by the office of the county election officer after the
elosing of the polls on the date of any election specified in K.S.A. 251122(f), and amendments thereto, and which are postmarked or are-

1 otherwise indicated by the United States postal service to have been-

2 mailed on or before the close of the polls on the date of the election, shall 3 be delivered by the county election officer to a special election board or 4 the county board of eanvassers, as determined by the secretary of state, for 5 eanvassing in a manner consistent, as nearly as may be, with other advance 6 voting ballots. The deadline for the receipt by mail of the advance voting

ballots by the office of the county election officer shall be the last delivery
of mail by the United States postal service 7:00 p.m. on the third day
following the date of the election. The secretary of state shall adopt rules
and regulations with legislative approval as provided by section 4, and
amendments thereto, to implement this subsection.

12 Sec. 11. K.S.A. 25-1135 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-13 1135. (a) The special election boards established under K.S.A. 25-1133, and amendments thereto, shall canvass advance voting ballots as is 14 15 provided by law for the original canvass of ballots at voting places, except 16 as is otherwise provided in this section and K.S.A. 25-1136, and 17 amendments thereto. The supervising judge of the special election board shall announce in a clear and distinct voice the names of the advance 18 19 voting voters whose ballots have been received, and thereupon, the clerk 20 of the election board shall check the names of such voters upon the 21 advance voting voter list prescribed by K.S.A. 25-1126, and amendments 22 thereto. If a ballot has been received from a voter whose name is not on 23 such list, the name shall be entered on the advance voting poll book. One 24 of the judges shall open each ballot envelope without defacing the form 25 printed thereon and without mutilating the enclosed ballot or ballots. Such ballots shall then be disposed of as if the advance voting voters were 26 27 present. One of the judges shall clip the numbers from the ballots and 28 deposit them in the proper ballot boxes without unfolding them. Until the 29 closing of the polls, at least 25 ballots shall remain uncounted in each 30 ballot box.

(b) The canvass shall be completed prior to 12:00 a.m. on the day following the day of the election. The results of the canvass shall be reported to the county election officer at 12:00 a.m. on the day following the day of the election or as soon thereafter as possible, as provided by K.S.A. 25-3006, and amendments thereto. The secretary of state and the county election officer shall ensure that special election boards are sufficiently staffed to enable the timely completion of the canvass.

(c) The special election board shall not reveal or communicate any preliminary or final vote count to any person, except an authorized poll agent as otherwise permitted by law, the county election officer, the secretary of state or an agent of the secretary of state, until the initial canvass is completed by the special election board and the results of the election have been published by the secretary of state on the secretary's 1 website.

2 Sec. 12. K.S.A. 25-1136 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-3 1136. (a) The vote of any advance voting voter may be challenged in the 4 same manner as other votes are challenged, as nearly as may be, and the 5 judges of the special election board shall determine the validity of each 6 advance voting ballot. Whenever the judges determine that the form 7 accompanying an advance voting ballot is insufficient, or that the voter is 8 not a registered voter, or the challenge is otherwise sustained, the advance 9 voting ballot envelope shall not be opened. In all such cases, the judges 10 shall endorse on the back of the envelope the word "provisional" and state the reason for sustaining the challenge. 11

(b) Any advance voting ballot envelope which has not been signed
shall not be opened, and no vote on the ballot therein shall be counted. The
envelope or ballot shall be challenged in the same manner in which other
votes are challenged.

16 (c) Whenever it shall be made to appear to the judges of a special 17 election board by sufficient proof that an advance voting voter has died, 18 the envelope containing the advance voting ballot of the deceased voter 19 shall not be opened. In all such cases, the judges shall endorse on the back 20 of the envelope the word "provisional" and the reason for sustaining the 21 challenge.

(d) If objection is made to an advance voting ballot because of form, condition, or marking thereof, the ballot shall be marked "void" if the judges uphold the objection to the entire ballot, and otherwise shall be marked on the back thereof, "objected to" with a statement of the substance of the objection.

27 (e) Void, provisional and objected to advance voting ballots shall be 28 transmitted to the county election officer in the same manner as personally cast provisional ballots are transmitted but shall be placed in separate 29 30 envelopes or sacks, appropriately labeled and sealed. Votes contained in 31 void and provisional advance voting ballots shall not be included in the 32 total of votes certified by the special election board. Void, provisional and 33 objected to advance voting ballots shall be reviewed by the board of 34 county canvassers, and the board shall finally determine the acceptance or 35 rejection of each void, provisional or objected to ballot.

36 (f) Procedures for canvassing and challenging advance voting ballots 37 received by mail after the closing of the polls pursuant to K.S.A. 25-38 1132(b), and amendments thereto, shall be as set forth in rules and-39 regulations adopted by the secretary of state as authorized by K.S.A. 25-40 1132(b), and amendments theretoCounty election officers shall produce a 41 report providing a full accounting of the number of advance ballots 42 mailed, received, accepted, rejected, missing and destroyed for each 43 election. Such report shall be accompanied by a declaration signed by the

1 county election official attesting to the accuracy of the report.

2 Sec. 13. K.S.A. 25-1219 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-3 1219. (a) The secretary of state shall cause to be prepared, printed, and 4 transmitted to the county election officers an appropriate number of official envelopes for use in connection with such official federal services 5 6 absentee ballots, including envelopes for mailing ballots to applicants 7 therefor, and envelopes for the return of such ballots by the voters, which 8 shall conform and be subject to the provisions of the federal act referred to 9 in K.S.A. 25-1214, as amended and amendments thereto.

10 (b) The secretary of state shall prescribe and furnish to the county election officers the form for printed instructions to voters of federal 11 12 services absentee ballots, and the form for ballot envelopes and the 13 affidavit which shall be printed upon the ballot envelopes. Such affidavit shall state the place of residence of the voter, his post office or mailing 14 15 address at the time of election, that he has not voted by any other form of 16 absentee ballot at such election, that he personally has marked the ballot, 17 placed it in the ballot envelope and sealed the envelope, and that no other 18 person placed any mark upon-said such ballot. The affidavit form shall 19 provide for notarization of the voter's signature.

Sec. 14. K.S.A. 25-1221 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-20 21 1221. (a) After such voter has marked the official federal services absentee 22 ballot, he or she the voter shall place it in the official ballot envelope and 23 secretly seal the same seal the envelope. Such voter shall then fill out in 24 full the form printed upon the official ballot envelope and sign the same. 25 The voter's signature shall be notarized. Such ballot envelope shall then be 26 placed in the envelope provided for such purpose and mailed by the voter 27 to the county election officer of the county of the voter's residence. The 28 ballot shall be mailed on or before the Tuesday that is three weeks prior to 29 the election. The voter shall mail such ballot using a postal service or any 30 other delivery service that provides the voter with a receipt indicating the 31 date that the ballot was mailed and allowing the voter to verify that the 32 ballot was delivered.

33 (b) All such ballots which reach the county election officer not later 34 than the hour for closing of the polls on the date of any such election shall be delivered by the county election officer to the special election boards 35 36 provided for in K.S.A. 25-1133, and amendments thereto, at the time 37 prescribed by K.S.A. 25-1134, and amendments thereto, for delivery of 38 absentee ballots. Such special election board shall canvass the ballots 39 delivered to it under the provisions of this act in the same manner and 40 subject to the same provisions of law as are applicable to an original 41 canvass of ballots by an election board as is provided by law for absentee 42 ballots, except that the names of such voters shall be entered upon one or 43 more federal services absentee poll books designated for voters who have

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1 submitted federal services absentee ballots if required by federal law.

Sec. 15. K.S.A. 25-26a02 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-26a02. Election precincts in all counties of the state shall be established or
changed by county election officers in such a manner that:

5 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each election 6 precinct shall be composed of contiguous and compact areas having 7 clearly observable boundaries using visible ground features which meet 8 the requirements of the federal bureau of the census and which coincide 9 with census block boundaries as established by the federal bureau of the 10 census and shall be wholly contained within any larger district from which 11 any municipal, township or county officers are elected;

(b) election precincts for election purposes shall be designated
 consecutively in the county by number or name, or a combination of name
 and number;

(c) any municipal exclave or township enclave shall be a separate
precinct and designated by a separate number or name, or combination of
name and number, and shall not be identified with or as a part of any other
municipal or township precinct;

(d) from and after the time that the legislature has been redistricted in
1992, precincts shall be arranged so that no precinct lies in more than one
legislative district;

(e) a street or other roadway which has been platted but not graded is
 not a visible or observable feature for the purposes of this section; and

(f) where a legislative district boundary coincides with a municipal boundary which is changed by reason of annexation, such legislative district boundary shall be maintained as a precinct boundary until the next legislative redistricting regardless of whether such a legislative district boundary uses a visible ground feature or coincides with a census block boundary; and

(g) no precinct shall contain more than 1,000 persons, as determined
 pursuant to the most recent data published by the federal bureau of the
 census.

33 Sec. 16. K.S.A. 25-26a03 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-34 26a03. (a) Notwithstanding any other law or provisions to the contrary, no 35 election precinct shall be created, divided, abolished or consolidated or the 36 boundaries thereof changed during the period four months prior to each 37 primary election and the succeeding general election or between January 1 38 of a year the last digit of which is 8 and December 1 of a year the last digit 39 of which is 0, and from and after January 1, 1993, between January 1 of a 40 year the last digit of which is 7 and the time when the legislature has been redistricted in a year the last digit of which is 2 except in the following 41 42 cases:

43

(a)-(1) If required by the creation of a political subdivision, new

1 precincts may be created.

2 (2) If there is an alteration of a political subdivision by annexation,3 new precincts may be created.

4 (3) If a political subdivision annexes an area adjacent to the political 5 subdivision boundary, the annexed area may be included in a precinct 6 immediately adjacent to it, if the annexed area is in the same legislative 7 district.

8 (4) A municipality or county election officer may establish new 9 election precincts lying entirely within the boundaries of any existing 10 precinct and shall designate the new precincts by name or number, or a 11 combination of name and number, which shall include the designated 12 name or number of the former precinct.

(5) If required to conform and coincide with a federal census block
 boundary established by the federal bureau of the census, a county election
 officer may change precinct boundaries.

(6) If required to maintain the population within a precinct to not
more than 1,000 persons, a county election officer may create a new
precinct, including a new precinct entirely within the boundaries of any
existing precinct, or change the boundaries of a precinct.

(b) When necessary to comply with the provisions of this act, not less
than 45 days after the legislature has been redistricted, or by June 10 in a
year the last digit of which is 2–(, whichever occurs first), precinct
boundaries shall be reestablished.

24 Sec. 17. K.S.A. 25-26a05 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-25 26a05. (a) The secretary of state shall promptly review all precinct maps submitted pursuant to K.S.A. 25-26a04, and amendments thereto, for 26 27 compliance with the provisions of this act. The secretary of state shall 28 promptly notify the appropriate county election officer as to whether or not such precinct maps are in compliance with the provisions of this act. Those 29 precinct maps determined not to be in compliance with this act shall be 30 31 rejected and returned to the appropriate county election officer with a 32 written statement of noncompliance setting forth those instances where the 33 map is in default. The appropriate county or city officials shall be notified 34 forthwith of the rejection by the county election officer and shall make the 35 required adjustments and resubmit the corrected precinct map or maps 36 within 30 days after receiving notice of noncompliance. Notwithstanding 37 other law to the contrary, changes in precinct boundaries shall not be 38 effective and shall not be used for the conduct of any election until the 39 secretary of state has determined the precinct maps are in compliance with 40 the provisions of this act.

(b) If the initial or corrected precinct maps as required in this act are
not filed by the deadlines set forth in this act, the secretary of state is
hereby authorized and required to establish where necessary appropriate

1 precinct boundaries in compliance with the provisions of this act, 2 notwithstanding other law to the contrary providing or establishing 3 authority for any county or city official to establish precinct boundaries. 4 Precinct boundaries shall be established such that no precinct shall 5 contain more than 1,000 persons, as determined pursuant to the most 6 recent data published by the federal bureau of the census. The secretary of 7 state will notify the appropriate county election officer of any precincts 8 established under the provisions of this subsection, and the county election 9 officer immediately shall notify the appropriate city or county officials who shall forthwith adopt as the official precincts those precincts 10 established by the secretary of state. 11

12 Sec. 18. K.S.A. 25-2701 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-13 2701. (a) (1) The county election officer shall determine the area to be served by each voting place at every election and shall provide notice of 14 15 such voting places as required by law. At the discretion of the countyelection officer, all voters within a county may be allowed to vote at any 16 polling location on election day, provided all rules and regulations are-17 18 followed as established by the secretary of state for such purpose A voting 19 place serving a precinct shall be located within the boundaries of that 20 precinct. Except as provided by subsections (a)(2) and (b), no voting place 21 shall serve more than one precinct. A voter shall only be permitted to vote 22 at a voting place located within the precinct of such person's residence, except as provided by subsections (a)(2) and (b) and as otherwise 23 24 provided by K.S.A 25-3701 and 25-3702, and amendments thereto.

(2) Any precinct having-less *fewer* than 20 registered voters shall be
included with an adjacent precinct or precincts in a single area to be served
by a common voting place. The location of voting places shall be
designated by the county election officer as provided by K.S.A. 25-2703,
and amendments thereto.

(b) For any election to which this section is applicable, wherever a
eity is located in two counties, the county election officer of the county in
which the greater population of the city is located may designate a voting
place located in a portion of the city in the other county to serve an area
within that portion of the city within the county in which the greater
population of the city is located.

(c)—At voting places serving two or more precincts, one or more of
 which have—less *fewer* than 20 registered voters, all ballots which are
 identical shall be deposited in the same ballot box or boxes and such votes
 shall be counted and canvassed in a manner as to minimize the possibility
 of identifying the ballots cast by any voter.

41  $\frac{(d)(c)}{(1)}$  (1) The county election officer may not change a voting place 42 prior to an election without providing mailed notice to the voters affected 43 at least 30 days prior to the election. If an emergency is declared by the 1 county election officer *sheriff*, the mailed notice requirement shall be 2 waived.

3 (2) Failure to receive notice of a change in the voting place shall not 4 give rise to a cause of action challenging the results of the election.

5 (d) The county election officer shall provide for the security of voting 6 places each election by arranging with the sheriff for an appropriate 7 presence of sheriff's deputies at each voting place on the day of the 8 election. The sheriff shall have sole law enforcement jurisdiction over the 9 voting place and shall consult with the county election officer with regard 10 to the provision of such security. The sheriff shall provide for the presence of at least one sheriff's deputy at each voting place during the period of 11 12 voting on election day and until any initial canvass conducted at the 13 voting place has been completed.

Sec. 19. K.S.A. 25-2702 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-14 15 2702. The county election officer may establish more than one precinct in 16 any township or divide any township into precincts. Such division shall be 17 made by a declaration made at least ninety (90) days before any county or 18 state primary or general election, and notice of such division, showing the 19 boundaries of each precinct, shall be published once each week for three 20 (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county 21 in which such township is located. A division once made shall remain the 22 same until changed by subsequent declaration and publication notice as 23 herein required by this section. Upon making such division into precincts, 24 the county election officer shall designate the boundaries of each precinct. A voter shall not be eligible to vote at any national, state, county or 25 26 township election in any voting area precinct other than the one in which 27 he or she the voter resides. A precinct shall not contain more than 1,000 28 persons, as determined pursuant to the most recent data published by the 29 federal bureau of the census.

Sec. 20. K.S.A. 25-2702a is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2702a. Whenever a ward or township is not divided into more than one voting precinct, the entire undivided ward or township shall constitute a "precinct" as that term is used in all laws relating to elections. *A precinct shall not contain more than 1,000 persons, as determined pursuant to the most recent data published by the federal bureau of the census.* 

36 Sec. 21. K.S.A. 25-3006 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-37 3006. (a) When the election board completes its canvass, it shall make 38 three abstracts of the vote cast for all candidates whose names are printed 39 on the ballot, all write-in votes cast and all votes cast on questions 40 submitted. Such abstracts shall be made under the direction of the supervising judge upon forms provided by the county election officer. 41 Each of such three abstracts shall bear a certificate of the validity thereof 42 43 and each certificate shall be signed by all of the clerks and judges at the

1 voting place.

2 (b) In voting places where voting machines equipped with printed 3 election returns mechanisms are used, the counter compartment shall not 4 be opened and the original and duplicate originals of the printed return 5 sheets of the votes cast on questions submitted and for candidates whose 6 names are printed on the official ballot labels, together with the tabulation 7 and inclusion of any write-in votes appearing on the paper roll shall 8 constitute the official abstract for the votes cast on that machine, when coupled with the other originals and duplicate originals of other machines 9 in the voting place and certified as abstracts of the vote cast at such voting 10 place, upon forms and in the manner prescribed by the county election 11 12 officer.

13 (c) The election board shall complete its canvass prior to 12:00 a.m. on the day following the day of the election. Upon completion of the 14 canvass, the election board shall certify the abstracts of the votes cast. The 15 16 certified abstracts shall be transmitted to the county election officer by 12:00 a.m. on the day following the day of the election or as soon 17 thereafter as possible. The secretary of state and the county election 18 19 officer shall ensure that election boards are sufficiently staffed to enable 20 the timely completion of the canvass.

(d) The election board shall not reveal or communicate any preliminary or final vote count to any person, except an authorized poll agent as otherwise permitted by law, the county election officer, the secretary of state or an agent of the secretary of state, until the initial canvass is completed by the special election board and the results of the election have been published by the secretary of state on the secretary's website.

(e) The secretary of state with legislative approval provided by
 section 4, and amendments thereto, may adopt rules and regulations
 prescribing procedures and forms to be used in carrying out the provisions
 of this section and K.S.A. 25-1338, as amended and amendments thereto.

Sec. 22. K.S.A. 2022 Supp. 25-4406 is hereby amended to read as
follows: 25-4406. Electronic or electromechanical voting systems
approved by the secretary of state *shall*:

(a) Shall-Provide for voting for the candidates for nomination or
 election of all political parties officially recognized pursuant to K.S.A. 25 302a, and amendments thereto;

(b) shall permit a voter to vote for any independent candidate for any
 office;

40 (c) shall-provide for voting on constitutional amendments or other 41 questions submitted;

42 (d) shall be so constructed that, as to primaries where candidates are 43 nominated by political parties, the voter can vote only for the candidates for whom the voter is qualified to vote according to articles 2 and 33 of
 chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;

3 (e) shall—afford the voter an opportunity to vote for any or all 4 candidates for an office for whom the voter is by law entitled to vote and 5 no more, and at the same time shall prevent the voter from voting for the 6 same candidate twice for the same office;

7 (f) shall—be so constructed that in presidential elections the
8 presidential electors of any political party may be voted for by one action;
9 (g) shall-provide for "write-in" votes;

(h) shall provide for voting in absolute secrecy, except as to persons
 who request assistance due to temporary illness or disability or a lack of
 proficiency in reading the English language;

(i) shall-reject all votes for an office or upon a question submitted
when the voter has cast more votes for such office or upon such question
than the voter is entitled to cast;

(j) shall-provide for instruction of voters on the operation of voting
machines, illustrating the manner of voting by the use of such systems.
The instruction may include printed materials or demonstration by election
board workers;

20 (k) shall provide a paper record of each vote cast, produced at the 21 time the vote is cast;

(1) shall-have the ability to be tested both before an election and prior
 to the date of canvass. The test shall include the ability to match the paper
 records of such machines to the vote totals contained in the machines; *and*

(m) shall meet the requirements of the help America vote act of 2002
 and other federal statutes and regulations governing voting equipment; and

(n) shall not have the capability nor shall any component of an electronic or electromechanical voting system have the capability to be connected to the internet or to any other communications or computer network, including, but not limited to, a local area network, wireless network, cellular network or satellite network, or to use bluetooth or any other wireless communications technology.

Sec. 23. K.S.A. 35-107 is hereby amended to read as follows: 35-107.
(a) On and after January 1, 2006, The following days are declared to be legal public holidays and are to be observed as such:

- 36 (1) New Year's Day, January 1;
- 37 (2) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the third Monday in January;
- 38 (3) President's Day, the third Monday in February;
- 39 (4) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;
- 40 (5) Independence Day, July 4;
- 41 (6) Labor Day, the first Monday in September;
- 42 Columbus Day, the second Monday in October;
- 43 (7) General Election Voting Day, the Tuesday succeeding the first

- 1 Monday in November;
- 2 (8) Veterans' Day, the eleventh day in November;
- 3 (9) Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November; and
- 4 *(10)* Christmas Day, December 25.

5 (b) Any reference in the laws of this state concerning observance of 6 legal holidays shall on and after January 1, 2006, be considered as a 7 reference to the day or days prescribed in subsection (a) for the observance 8 of such legal holiday or holidays.

- 9 Sec. 24. K.S.A. 25-418, 25-1119, 25-1122, 25-1123, 25-1128, 25-10 1132, 25-1135, 25-1136, 25-1219, 25-1221, 25-26a02, 25-26a03, 25-
- 11 26a05, 25-2701, 25-2702, 25-2702a, 25-3006 and 35-107 and K.S.A. 2022
- 12 Supp. 25-4406 are hereby repealed.
- Sec. 25. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after itspublication in the Kansas register.