

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 125

As Amended by House Committee on
Elections

Brief*

SB 125 would make changes in election statutes. The bill would change the filing deadline from June 10 to June 1 for candidates for national, state (including governor and lieutenant governor), county, and township offices. The bill also would remove language regarding certain 1998 elections.

The bill would also change the filing deadline for extension districts from five weeks prior to the election to the Tuesday ten weeks before the election. Technical changes also would be made to KSA 2-624 to correct the lettering of sections.

Background

At the hearing on SB 125 in the Senate Committee, the Allen County Clerk and Election Official, representing the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association, and the Crawford County Clerk and Election Official testified in favor of the bill. Election officials from Cowley, Sherman, and Wyandotte counties submitted written testimony supporting the bill. The county election officials stated the change is needed to allow sufficient time to prepare ballots for military and civilian overseas voters and mail them by a federal deadline. No other testimony was presented.

*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 <http://www.kslegislature.org>

At the hearing on SB 125 before the House Committee on Elections representatives from Allen, Barton, Cowley, Crawford, Jefferson, and Wyandotte County presented testimony in support of the bill. There was no opponent testimony before the House Committee.

The House Committee on Elections amended the bill to add the language from HB 2080 as recommended favorably for passage by the Committee. That bill dealt with extension district filing deadlines. At the hearing on HB 2080 before the House Committee on Elections, Representative Jerry Williams and six county clerks (Allen, Cloud, Jefferson, Neosho, Osage, and Washington) testified in favor of the bill, which will make the filing deadlines more uniform, allowing ballots to be printed in a more timely manner. There was no opponent testimony.

The House Committee on Elections further amended HB 2080 to move the filing deadline from Wednesday to Tuesday to conform with other filing deadlines.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget for SB 125 as introduced, the Secretary of State said the bill would have no effect on that office or on county election offices. The fiscal note further says that many candidates file before the deadline.

The fiscal note for the original HB 2080 states that the Secretary of State indicated no impact on state revenue or expenditures.