

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Blake Carpenter
Representative, 81st District

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Elections Committee

Supporting Testimony for HB2539

Good afternoon chairman and committee members. Over the interim there were several individuals who made us aware that we did not have any requirements to run for the highest offices Kansas offers. Currently you do not have to be older than 18 and you do not even need to be a resident of the state of Kansas. In a good faith effort to get one of the younger candidates for governor involved in the political process I reached out to Mr. Ethan Randleas of Wichita who is currently 18. He offered the two main ideas that are contained in this bill.

The first idea was that these individuals should be a qualified elector which means at least 18 years old and a resident of Kansas. The second idea was that the individuals running for Governor and Lieutenant Governor need to have lived in Kansas for four consecutive years before becoming candidates for these two positions.

I have had enough conversations with legislators to know that having the age at 18 for the governor is not very appealing to many. I will leave the age determination for any of these offices up to the wisdom of this body as we move forward with this bill.

Thank you,

Representative Blake Carpenter