

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Blake Carpenter, Chairperson
House Committee on Elections
Statehouse, Room 149C-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Carpenter:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2355 by House Committee on Elections

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2355 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law requires certain municipal elections to be held within 45 days after compliance with the necessary requirements. HB 2355 would require the election to be held within 60 days, but not sooner than 45 days after compliance with the requirements. Current law requires the election commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State in counties with a population exceeding 130,000 to have been a qualified elector and resident of the county at least two years prior to appointment. The bill would remove that requirement. Current law withdrawing jurisdiction, powers and duties over the conduct, supervision and control of elections from county clerks and city, school and township officers in counties having a population of more than 100,000 would apply to counties having a population of more than 130,000 under the provisions of the bill.

The bill would amend current law concerning the handling of mail ballots received by mail by the county election officer after the date of the election and postmarked to have been mailed on or before the close of polls on the date of the election. The bill would also require a county election officer to attempt to contact each person who submits a mail ballot where there is no signature or where the signature does not match the signature on file and allow the voter the opportunity to correct the deficiency.

According to the Secretary of State, enactment of HB 2355 would not have a fiscal effect on the agency.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that enactment of the bill could result in costs associated with the mail provisions initially. Over time, however, the Association estimates these costs would be lower as fewer voters would need to be contacted due to ballot issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Jay Hall, Association of Counties
Sandy Tompkins, Office of the Secretary of State