

SESSION OF 2024

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2512**

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2512, as amended, would amend provisions of election law pertaining to advance in-person voting.

The bill would permit county election officers to provide for advance in-person voting on the Saturday or Sunday preceding the election and would require county election offices to provide at least four hours for advance in-person voting on the Saturday preceding the election. [*Note: Current law states county election officers may allow advance in-person voting on the Saturday preceding the election.*]

Beginning on and after January 1, 2025, the bill would provide that advance in-person voting must end no later than 7:00 p.m. on the Sunday preceding the election but would authorize a county election officer to allow in-person voting until 12:00 noon on the Monday before an election for any person for good cause. [*Note: Current law provides that 12:00 noon on the day preceding the election (Monday) is the advance in-person voting deadline.*]

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of Representative Waggoner.

*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>

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, **opponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the League of Women Voters of Kansas and Loud Light Civic Action. The opponents generally stated concerns about reducing the advance voting period and conflicts with other provisions of election law.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the ACLU of Kansas, Campaign Legal Center, and Health Forward Foundation.

Neutral testimony was provided by representatives of the Office of the Secretary of State and the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association. The neutral conferees generally stated the bill would alleviate the time-sensitive workload on election officials the day before the election, however it may disenfranchise some voters.

Written-only neutral testimony was provided by a private citizen.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Permit county election officers to provide for advance in-person voting on the Saturday or Sunday preceding an election;
- Require county election officers to provide at least four hours on the Saturday preceding the election for advance in-person voting;
- Beginning January 1, 2025, require advance in-person voting to end no later than 7:00 p.m. on the second day preceding the election (Sunday); and
- Remove language requiring all advance voting ballots returned by personal delivery to be

delivered to the county election office no later than 7:00 p.m. on the Sunday preceding the election.

The House Committee recommended a substitute bill to incorporate the amendments.

House Committee of the Whole

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to add an exception that would permit county election officers to allow in-person voting until 12:00 noon on the Monday before the election for any person for good cause, beginning January 1, 2025.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of the Secretary of State indicates it would use existing resources to update training materials for county election officials and update educational and promotional materials to the voting public to ensure knowledge of the new deadlines for advance voting ballot applications and advance voting ballots contained in the bill. The agency also indicates enactment of the bill would have a fiscal effect on county election office budgets and estimates costs would range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars per county. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the bill would have a fiscal effect on counties because the bill changes the timing of in-person advance voting but is unable to estimate the effect.

Elections; advance in-person voting; county election office