

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Larry Alley, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Statehouse, Room 136-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Alley:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 184 by Senator Corson

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 184 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law allows any registered voter that has a permanent disability or illness that has been diagnosed as a permanent illness to make an application for permanent advance voting status. SB 184 would remove those restrictions to allow any registered voter to make an application for permanent advance voting status.

According to the Secretary of State, enactment of SB 184 would require the agency to make changes to training manuals and programs, develop new forms and make changes to voting and educational materials provided to the general public. These changes could be made using existing resources.

The agency indicates that enactment of SB 184 would cause additional costs to the county election offices since voters who are on permanent advance voting lists rarely update mailing addresses to keep them current. Ballots must be sent as non-forwardable and when these ballots are returned, the post office charges a fee for each ballot. The agency anticipates that each county will see a dramatic increase in the number of ballots returned and the amount of fees paid to the postal service. The fees would vary according to county and election; however, they would be permanent and additional costs for every election in every county. The Secretary of State is unable to estimate what these costs might be.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that there could be some fiscal effect initially from needing to process additional voter applications, however, that effect would be reduced as there would not be a need to process as many applications during the ensuing election cycles. It

is possible that a ballot could be lost in the mail causing a voter to need to vote in person, casting a provisional ballot; however, the election offices already plan for a percentage of these ballots, so the effect should be minimal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a stylized "P" at the end.

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

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