

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Bowers, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government
Statehouse, Room 223A-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Bowers:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 310 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 310 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 310 would amend existing law relating to voting systems and procedures to require that all voting systems used for elections must use an individual, durable, voter-verified, paper ballot of the voter's vote which would be considered the official ballot and would be considered the true and correct record of votes cast. The bill would establish the requirements for how the ballot must be marked, corrected, preserved, counted, made available to the voter, and canvassed. The bill would take effect upon publication in the statute book.

According to the Secretary of State, enactment of SB 310 would require the agency to produce new training materials for county election offices and educational materials to inform the voting public of the required changes. The agency indicates that the costs for these materials would be included in routine changes that are completed every year and paid for from existing resources. The agency reports that there would be additional costs for Kansas counties that would need to replace existing voting machines; however, fewer than ten counties would need to do so. In addition, counties would be required to conduct hand-counted manual audits of each precinct which could result in additional costs ranging from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars per county. Depending on the interpretation of the definition of a hand-written signature, counties might also be required to forfeit support and maintenance contracts already in place in approximately 75.0 percent of the state. The Secretary is unable to estimate what these costs might amount to.

According to the Kansas Association of Counties, enactment of SB 310 would result in additional costs to counties for increase storage capacity. In addition, the Association indicates that at least eight counties would need to change the method they currently use to track voting, which would require investment in new equipment. The Association is unable to estimate what the costs for the counties might amount to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. L. Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Larry L. Campbell
Division of the Budget

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