

February 9, 2022

The Honorable Robert Olson, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Statehouse, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Olson:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 389 by Senator Hilderbrand

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 389 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 389 would require all voting systems used in the state to use an individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballot with a distinctive watermark established by the Kansas Office of the Secretary of State. The bill outlines requirements that would relate to the use and handling of the ballot; counting of the ballot; voting system and equipment specifications; when a hand recount would be required; and audit requirements for election boards as well as other requirements related to processes and procedures. The Office of the Secretary of State would be required to adopt the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

If SB 389 is enacted, the Kansas Office of the Secretary of State indicates it would incur costs related to time spent by staff working with voting machine vendors; training local county election officials on the new paper ballot requirements, hand recounts, and audits conducted by election boards; and to update educational and promotional materials provided to the voting public on new processes and procedures, but these costs could be absorbed within existing resources.

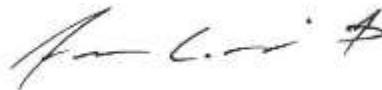
Both the Office of the Secretary of State and the Kansas Association of Counties indicate SB 389 would significantly increase expenditures for counties and local county elections offices related to:

1. Equipment upgrades for voting machine vendors and ballot printing vendors to have the capability to produce ballots that contain the distinct watermark;
2. Hand recounts; and

3. Additional wages paid to election board workers who would be required to conduct sample random audits at every polling place after polls close on Election Day.

The exact impact for each county would depend on the population of the county and how much equipment would need to be replaced. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 389 is not reflected in *The FY 2023 Governor's Budget Report*.

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