April 20, 2023

The Honorable Mike Thompson, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Thompson:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 220 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 220 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 220 would require the Kansas Secretary of State to prescribe the general forms of advance voting ballots to be used in primary and general elections as well as the printed instructions to voters containing a statement of all the requirements of the Kansas election laws to enable voters to comply with the requirements of the laws. The prescribed forms would be sent to the county election officers 35 days prior to each primary and general election. The bill would also set forth the appearance of advance voting ballot envelopes to include a signature block for the advance voter; a signature block for a person, if any, assisting the advance voter; and a signature block for a person, if any, delivering the advance voting ballot on behalf of the advance voter.

The Kansas Secretary of State indicates it would use existing resources to provide training and update manuals for county election officials; update the agency’s website; update public documents and information; and work with media, political parties, candidates, and the public to ensure knowledge of updated requirements on ballot forms, instructions, and advance ballot envelopes. The agency also states that enactment of SB 220 would invalidate all existing advance ballot envelopes and require each county to purchase new advance voting ballot envelopes for future elections. The cost of the new envelopes could range from a few hundred dollars to tens of thousands of dollars per county, depending on the current stock of envelopes already on hand. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 220 is not reflected in The FY 2024 Governor’s Budget Report.
The Kansas Association of Counties indicates, under SB 220, counties would need to update the advance voting ballot envelopes which could increase costs for the counties if the new envelopes cost more than the existing ballot envelopes. The Association is unable to estimate the fiscal effect.

Sincerely,

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

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