

REVISED
SESSION OF 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2056

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2056, as amended, would change the deadline for all advance voting ballots to be received by the county election officer from the third day following the date of the election to 7:00 p.m. on the date of the election. This would include advance voting ballots received by mail, in the office of the county election officer, the satellite election office, any polling place, or a county-maintained election drop box.

Background

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

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing on January 26, 2023 a representative of the Opportunity Solutions Project and a private citizen testified as **proponents** of the bill. They generally stated the bill would increase voter trust in the system by providing more timely results and provide clarity to voters regarding the deadline.

Representatives of the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, Health Forward Foundation, Kansas African American Affairs Commission, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, League of Women Voters of Kansas, Loud Light Civic Action, Mainstream Coalition, and Voting Rights Network of Wyandotte County and private citizens provided

*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>

opponent testimony, generally stating the bill would have an adverse effect on rural voters, voters with disabilities, voters that work shifts, voters that are out of town such as college students, and immunocompromised voters. Further, the opponents stated that the U.S. Postal Service is still moving slower than it was before the grace period was enacted in 2017.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas, Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association, Kansas Interfaith Action, and Mainstream Coalition and private citizens.

A representative of the Secretary of State provided neutral testimony, stating there were no mechanical implications from the bill and clarifying that the election system tracks when a mail ballot is processed, which is not the same as when the ballot arrives. The representative explained this is why it can appear more mail-in ballots arrive after election day.

On January 31, 2023, the House Committee amended the bill to clarify that advanced voting ballots turned in to the satellite election office or county-maintained election drop box would be subject to the amended deadline.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Secretary of State would use existing resources to provide training and updates required to implement the bill.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates the bill could have a fiscal effect on local government but is unable to estimate a fiscal effect. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2024 Governor's Budget Report*.

Elections; advance voting ballots; county election office; Secretary of State; Kansas Association of Counties; mail-in ballots; ballot drop boxes; advance voting ballot deadline