

FY 2012	\$792,000
FY 2013	\$835,000
FY 2014	\$938,000

KAMS is an accelerated residential program for Kansas high school juniors and seniors who are academically talented in science and mathematics. The purpose of KAMS is to provide an opportunity for academically talented pupils to work in a community of peers and to earn simultaneously college credits and a high school diploma at a state educational institution designated by the Board of Regents. The Board designated Fort Hays State University as the site for KAMS in December 2007. The bill appropriates funding for the program based on estimates provided by Fort Hays State University and the Board of Regents.

Dyslexia

HR 6021 urges the State Board of Education to focus more specifically on the reading needs of children with dyslexia. The Resolution addresses early screening, diagnostic assessments, teacher preparation, and instructional programs for students with dyslexia.

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS

Voting Sites

SB 65 expands to all counties the ability of county election officers to designate places other than the central county election office as satellite advance voting sites. Previous law restricted this to counties with a population exceeding 250,000 (Sedgwick and Johnson counties).

Reporting Contributions; Using Public Resources for Express Advocacy

SB 196 addresses the campaign finance and election topics of reporting on various contributions and expenditures, use of contribution money, and use of public resources for express advocacy. Details of the bill follow.

Reporting Campaign Contributions and Independent Expenditures During the 11 Days Before an Election

This portion of the bill does the following:

- Requires that the treasurer for a candidate for a state or local office file a campaign contribution report, listing information for each person who has made one or more contributions totaling \$300 or more during the period that begins 11 days before a primary or general election and ending just before the Wednesday preceding the date

of the election. The report must be made on or before the close of business on the Thursday preceding the election.

- The information required to be placed in the report is:
 - The name and address of each person contributing an aggregate amount of at least \$300;
 - The amount and date of the contribution, including the name and address of every lender, guarantor and endorser if the contribution is in the form of an advance or loan.
- The required reports may be filed by hand delivery, express delivery service, fax, or any electronic method authorized by the Secretary of State.
- Requires that the treasurer for a party committee or political committee file reports of (1) independent expenditures made and (2) contributions received totaling more than \$300 during the period that begins 11 days before a state or local primary or general election and ending just before the Wednesday preceding the date of the election. The report must be made on or before the close of business on the Thursday before the election. For the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday preceding the election, reports must be submitted daily by the close of business on the following day.
 - The information required to be placed in the report is:
 - The amount, date and purpose of each such independent expenditure or contribution.
 - For independent expenditures, the name of the candidate whose nomination, election or defeat is expressly advocated.
 - For independent expenditures made as payment to an advertising agency, public relations firm or political consultant to be disbursed to vendors, the name of each vendor and the amount, date and purpose of the payments, also accompanied by the name of the candidate whose nomination, election or defeat is expressly advocated.
 - The required reports may be filed by hand delivery, express delivery service, fax, or any electronic method authorized by the Secretary of State.

- "Independent expenditure" is defined as one made without the cooperation or consent of the candidate or the agent of the candidate intended to be benefitted.

Use of Contribution Funds for Membership Dues or Donations

The bill clarifies the circumstances under which a candidate is permitted to use contribution funds for membership dues or donations paid to a community service or civic organization. The bill:

- Clarifies that only membership dues related to a candidate's campaign are permitted to be paid from contribution funds; and
- Clarifies that donations are permitted to be paid from contribution funds only if the candidate receives no goods or services unrelated to a candidate's campaign as a result of the payment of such dues or donations.

More Detailed Information on Certain Campaign Finance Reports

The bill amends existing law related to campaign finance to require that a political committee or a party committee provide more detailed information on certain expenditures than currently required. The requirements would apply to the following types of expenditures:

- An expenditure for an in-kind contribution to a candidate in an aggregate amount of \$300 or more, and
- An aggregate expenditure of \$300 or more made without the consent or cooperation of the candidate, and which expressly advocates the nomination, election or defeat of that candidate.

The bill requires those committees to report the name and address of the candidate; the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure; and the specific service or product provided.

In addition, the bill makes several technical corrections.

Reporting of Contributions by an Individual

The bill amends existing law related to campaign finance to require that mandated reports of contributions by an individual of more than \$150 include the type of industry in which the individual works. This is in addition to the current requirement to report the name and occupation of those contributors.

Use of Public Resources for Express Advocacy

The bill addresses the use of public money and property to expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate. The bill:

- Expands the current restriction on the use of public funds, vehicles, machinery, equipment or supplies by a public officer or employee to all municipalities, in addition to the state of Kansas and the specific municipalities currently covered by the law.
 - The current restriction applies to the State of Kansas, counties, cities of the first class, any unified school district with an enrollment of 35,000 or more, and the Board of Public Utilities of Kansas City, Kansas. The bill retains the restriction for these entities and adds a number of others, subsumed under the term "municipalities."
 - The bill uses the definition of "municipalities" contained in another statute that covers all of the following: "county, township, city, school district of whatever name or nature, community junior college, municipal university, city, county or district hospital, drainage district, cemetery district, fire district, and other political subdivision or taxing unit, and including their boards, bureaus, commissions, committees and other agencies, such as, but not limited to, library board, park board, recreation commission, hospital board of trustees having power to create indebtedness and make payment of the same independently of the parent unit."
- Adds a further restriction, prohibiting any municipality from allowing any person to distribute express advocacy political brochures or other documents in any structure owned by the municipality, unless each candidate for the office concerned is provided the same opportunity.

Mobile Voting Sites, Mail Ballot Election, Local Primaries, Political Yard Signs

SB 562 addresses the election topics of mobile voting sites, inactive voters in mail ballot elections, local office primary elections, and political yard signs. Details of the bill follow.

Mobile Voting Sites

The bill establishes a process whereby, beginning on January 1, 2010, every nursing facility, assisted living facility, and hospital-based long-term care unit could serve as a voting place for its residents who are registered to vote. Specifically, the bill:

- Permits the county election officer to contact the administrator or operator of each such facility, at least 60 days before any election other than a mail ballot election, to request

that the registered voters in the facility be offered the opportunity to vote there. If the administrator agrees, a mutually agreed upon date for the voting must be established.

- Requires the county election officer to appoint a special election board to administer the ballots to the residents of a participating facility. Qualifications for the board, consisting of two or more members, are established in the bill.
- Requires the special election board for each participating facility to follow advance voting procedures, to the extent practicable.
- Permits any facility resident who is a registered voter to request a ballot from the special election board. The special election board may deliver an advance ballot to any voter who has received permanent advance voting status, instead of mailing the ballot.
- Permits any voter to receive assistance from a special election board member or from a person of the voter's choice, if the person rendering assistance signs a written statement as required by law.
- Requires the special election board to protect the privacy of each voter and seal each ballot in an envelope or deposit it in a locked ballot box. Security measures also are required when direct recording electronic voting systems are used. Voting materials must be returned to the county election officer at the close of voting at the facility. Tabulation procedures are specified in the bill.
- Requires the county election office to post the appropriate notice at each participating facility when it is serving as a mobile voting site.
- Defines the terms "nursing facility," "assisted living facility," and "hospital-based long-term care unit."
- Makes participating facilities subject to the provisions of the electioneering crime statute, during the time when the facility is serving as a mobile voting site.

Mail Ballots and Inactive Voters

With respect to mail ballot elections, the bill prohibits a county election officer from mailing ballots to any inactive voter who:

- Appears to have moved to a location outside the county in which the voter currently is registered or for whom mail cannot be forwarded, based on information provided by the postal service; and

- Has been mailed a confirmation notice as required when the postal service provides such information.

A provision exists in the bill for requesting a replacement ballot when the inactive voter believes he or she is entitled to vote in the election. These provisions became effective upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Local Primary Elections

Beginning on July 1, 2008, the bill revises current requirements regarding when a primary election may be held for school district boards, city officers, and community college district boards. For all three types of entities:

- A primary election is prohibited:
 - Unless, by holding the primary, two or more persons will be eliminated as candidates for office.
 - If there are not more than three times the number of candidates as there are officers or board members to be elected. If there are not more than three times the number of candidates, the candidates' names must appear on the general election ballot.
- A primary election must be held if needed to reduce the number of candidates for each office in the general election to no more than three candidates.

With respect to school district and community college district boards, the bill deletes the current language requiring the entities to hold primary elections under certain circumstances, which differ depending on whether the district elects members from member districts or at large. Regarding city officer elections, the bill revises the number of candidates that must be eliminated and the total number of candidates existing in order to hold a primary election.

Political Yard Signs and Restrictive Covenants

The bill invalidates any provision of a restrictive covenant prohibiting the display of political yard signs, which are less than six square feet, 45 days before an election or two days after the election. The bill applies to any restrictive covenant in existence on the day the act became effective, which was upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Voter Photo Identification; Presidential Preference Primary

HB 2019 changes the requirements for providing voter identification at elections. Effective January 1, 2010, the bill requires photo identification of all in-person voters (with the exception of certain voters who are exempted), and it changes the list of acceptable identification forms for those first-time voters submitting advance ballots by mail. Effective July 1, 2008, the bill allows for the issuance of a free photo identification card to anyone who qualifies under specified poverty criteria and signs an affidavit. Effective August 1, 2008, the bill requires first-time voters to show a photo identification and provides for a process to educate all other in-person voters on the upcoming change in identification requirements.

The bill also changes the presidential preference primary date to the first Saturday in February beginning in 2012.

The specific changes are described below.

Effective January 1, 2010

- Requires all in-person voters to provide identification at every election. Current law requires identification be provided only by those voting for the first time in the county who did not provide identification when registering to vote.
- Revises the array of acceptable identification documents, depending on whether the voter is voting in person or by mail as follows:
 - Requires photographic identification be provided by every advance voter applying to vote in person and by every elector voting at the polls. The list of acceptable photographic identification forms includes:
 - Current Kansas driver's license;
 - Current Kansas nondriver's identification card;
 - United States passport;
 - Employee badge or identification;
 - Debit or credit card;
 - Military identification;
 - Student identification; or

- Public assistance identification.
- Requires an election board member to verify whether the photographic identification provided by a person voting at the polls bears a signature. If it does not, the voter must provide an additional form of identification that provides the voter's signature.
- Deletes "utility bill, bank statement, paycheck and government check" from the list of acceptable identification for persons applying for an advance ballot to be transmitted by mail who are voting for the first time. The remaining acceptable identification forms include:
 - Providing on the ballot the voter's current, valid Kansas driver's license number, nondriver's identification card number, or the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number; or
 - Providing with the application a copy of the voter's current, valid Kansas driver's license number, nondriver's identification card number, or other government document containing the voter's current name and address as indicated on the registration book.
- Exempts the following persons from voter identification requirements unless they are first-time voters:
 - Persons aged 65 or older;
 - Persons with a temporary or permanent physical disability;
 - Members of the military on active duty, or their spouses, who because of their duty status are absent from the county on election day;
 - Members of the merchant marine, or their spouses, who are on assignment and absent from the county on election day;
 - Eligible voters currently residing outside the United States.
- Changes the presidential preference primary date to the first Saturday in February, beginning in 2012, and makes conforming changes.

Effective July 1, 2008

- Allows any person to receive a nondriver's identification card free of charge upon application, in order to meet the photographic identification requirements of the bill, if the person is at least 18 but less than 65 years of age and signs an affidavit that he or she either is registered to vote or plans to register and:
 - Receives any of a number of types of public assistance (food stamps, general assistance, supplemental security income [SSI], temporary assistance to families, Medicaid, United Tribes food distribution program, Bureau of Indian Affairs general assistance, administered temporary assistance for needy families, Head Start [if the person meets its income qualifying standard], or free school lunch program); or
 - Resides in a household whose income is 150 percent or less of the federal poverty level.

A person signing an affidavit falsely is guilty of an unclassified misdemeanor subject to a fine of up to \$250.

Effective August 1, 2008 and Expiring January 1, 2010

- Requires that in-person voters be requested to provide a form of photo identification from the list of those that will be mandated effective January 1, 2010. Failure to provide this identification will not invalidate a person's ballot.
- Requires county election officers and election board members to distribute written information to all in-person voters that explains:
 - The photo identification requirements that will become effective January 1, 2010; and
 - The ability of anyone who meets the poverty guidelines in the bill to obtain a nondriver's identification card free of charge.

U.S. Congressional Vacancies

HB 2683 addresses the filling of vacancies by election in the offices of United States Representative and Senator. It also changes the date of the presidential preference primary election. Details of the bill follow.

United States Representative

The bill provides for an alternative (generally condensed) election process in the event a Kansas vacancy occurs in the office of United States Representative due to extraordinary circumstances.

- The bill defines "extraordinary circumstances" as those in which the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives announces more than 100 vacancies exist in the U.S. House.
- The alternative election system specified in the bill is the system provided for in the U.S. Code for such vacancies.

United States Senator

The bill requires that a vacancy in the office of United States Senator be filled by election instead of gubernatorial appointment. It requires the Governor to proclaim, within five days of a vacancy occurring, an election date to fill any unexpired term left by the exiting U.S. Senator. The election date must be:

- Not less than 45 days nor more than 60 days after the proclamation is issued, unless otherwise provided;
- On the same date as the primary election of state officers, if the vacancy occurs any time from 90 to 30 days before the primary election; or
- On the same date as the primary or general election, if the vacancy occurs any time from 90 to 30 days before any regular primary or general election of city and school officers occurring in an odd-numbered year.

The bill further requires a statewide convention be held of each political party whose gubernatorial candidate receives at least 5 percent of the votes cast at the preceding gubernatorial election. Deadlines are established in the bill for holding the convention. The bill also allows independent candidates to be nominated by petition of registered voters equal in number to 4 percent of the number of qualified Kansas voters, or 5,000, whichever is less.

Presidential Preference Primary

Beginning in 2012, the bill changes the date of the presidential primary election to the first Saturday in February. The candidate filing and ballot deadlines are changed to conform.

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