

SESSION OF 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2080

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

HB 2080 would make changes in election statutes. The bill would move all local government Spring elections to the Fall, and would change a number of candidate filing deadlines. Details of the bill follow.

Moving Spring Elections to the Fall

The bill would move all primary elections to the first Tuesday in August of even-numbered years, and all general elections to the first Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in even-numbered years. The elections affected would be local elections:

- City offices;
- School boards (local);
- Water districts;
- Irrigation districts; and
- Community college trustees.

Changing Filing Deadlines

The bill would change the filing deadline for extension districts from five weeks prior to the election to the Tuesday

*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>

ten weeks before the election. Technical changes also would be made to KSA 2-624 to correct the lettering of sections.

The bill would move the filing deadline for national, state, county and township offices to June 10, or the subsequent business day if June 10 is a weekend or holiday. If, during a redistricting year, the new boundaries are established on or before May 10, the filing deadline would be June 10, or the subsequent business day if June 10 is a weekend or holiday. If the new boundaries are established on or after May 11, the filing deadline would be June 18 or the subsequent business day if June 18 is a weekend or holiday.

Background

Rep. Jerry Williams and six county clerks (Allen, Cloud, Jefferson, Neosho, Osage and Washington) testified in favor of the original bill, which would make the extension district filing deadlines more uniform, allowing ballots to be printed in a more timely manner.

There was no opponent testimony on the original bill.

The House Committee on Elections approved an amendment to move the filing deadline from Wednesday to Tuesday to conform with other filing deadlines. The conferees on the original bill agreed with this amendment, which will make filing deadlines consistent.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill by inserting the language of HB 2126. This amendment would move all elections currently on the Spring election cycle (city offices, local school boards, water districts, irrigation districts and community college trustees) to the Fall election cycle. To accomplish this, the HB 2126 amendment would make a number of changes to city election laws to ensure they are uniform between different classes of cities and their forms of government. At the hearing on HB 2126, three proponents testified in favor of the bill. The proponents cited potential

cost savings that could be realized by consolidating all elections to the Fall of even-numbered years. Five opponents testified against the bill, citing the potential for local issues getting lost with more attention paid to state and federal issues in the Fall election cycle.

The House Committee of the Whole also amended the bill by inserting the language of SB 130. This amendment would change the filing deadline for candidates in both redistricting and non-redistricting years. At the hearing on SB 130, a representative from the Secretary of State's office testified in favor of the bill. He indicated that under current law, the filing deadlines would prevent ballots from being printed and mailed in time to comply with federal election law requiring ballots be mailed to military personnel in time for them to be returned for the election. There were no opponents to the bill.

The fiscal note on the original bill stated that the Secretary of State indicated no impact on state revenue or expenditures.

The fiscal note on HB 2126 estimated a savings of \$34,890 statewide for county election offices by moving the elections from the Spring cycle to the Fall cycle.

The fiscal note on SB 130 indicated no fiscal effect.