

SESSION OF 2012

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2437

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2437, as amended, would make changes to provisions enacted in 2011 HB 2067, the act which established requirements for photographic voter identification (photo ID) and required proof of United States citizenship for newly registered Kansas voters. Specifically, the bill would make the following changes:

- Proof of Citizenship for Newly Registered Voters -- The effective date would be changed from January 1, 2013 to June 15, 2012.
- Additional Changes Regarding Photo ID Requirements -- The bill would add an ID card issued by an Indian tribe to the list of acceptable photo ID forms, one of which is required to vote in person. The bill also would extend the provision of a free certified copy of a birth certificate to any person who is 17 years of age or older for the purposes of voting, if the applicant for the free copy lacks the photo ID required. (Current law allows a free copy only for the purposes of registering to vote.)

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

*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>

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of the Secretary of State. Testifying in favor of the bill were the Secretary of State and the election commissioners of Wyandotte, Johnson, and Sedgwick counties. Opponents included representatives of the Kansas Equality Coalition, the Westview Manor of Peabody, the KanVote Coalition, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons (the Kansas State Conference and the Topeka Unit), the League of Women Voters, and Sunflower Community Action.

The House Committee on Elections amended the bill to add the Indian tribe ID card to the list of acceptable photo ID forms for voting in person, and to extend the provision of the free birth certificate copy for the purpose of voting.

According to the fiscal note, both the Office of the Secretary of State and the Kansas Association of Counties indicated passage of the original bill would have no fiscal effect on state or county revenues or expenditures.