

SESSION OF 2012

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 17**

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

House Sub. for SB 17, 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 U.S. citizenship for newly registered Kansas voters. Specifically, the bill would make the following two changes:

- Proof of Citizenship for Newly Registered Voters—The effective date would be changed from January 1, 2013, to June 15, 2012. Between June 15 and December 31, 2012, the requirement for evidence of U.S. citizenship would be met in one of the following two ways:
 - By receipt of the qualifying citizenship document by the Office of the Secretary of State or a county election office; or
 - By receipt of any qualifying document by the State Election Board, the Division of Vehicles of the Department of Revenue, or a voter registration agency (defined in federal law to include all offices in the State that provide public assistance or provide state-funded programs primarily engaged in providing services to those with disabilities). Those entities would be required to promptly report receipt of the documentation to the county election officer or Secretary of State, and the

*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>

applicant would be deemed to have provided satisfactory evidence of U.S. citizenship. The bill would require the receiving agency to transmit the citizenship documents to the appropriate county election officer or the Secretary of State no later than December 31, 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*.

Background

As it left the Senate, SB 17 would have increased the campaign contribution limit for State Board of Education candidates from \$500 to \$1,000 for each primary or general election. The House Committee on Elections deleted these contents and adopted a substitute bill with the contents of HB 2437, as amended by the same Committee, with the addition of a technical change.

With respect to HB 2437, 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 HB 2437 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.

The House Committee of the Whole amended House Sub. for SB 17 to add the provisions related to documentation of citizenship between June 15, 2012, and January 1, 2013.

Provisions relating to tribal identification and free birth certificates for voting purposes also are included in the Conference Committee Report on SB 129.

According to the fiscal note on HB 2437, as introduced, 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.