

SESSION OF 2018

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2539**

As Amended by Senate Committee on Ethics,  
Elections and Local Government

**Brief\***

HB 2539, as amended, would amend the qualifications for candidacy for several statewide elected offices. The bill would require every candidate for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, and State Commissioner of Insurance be a qualified elector of Kansas by the deadline for filing for such office.

The bill also would add these requirements for certain candidates:

- Age 30 or older when becoming a candidate for the office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor; and
- Licensed to practice law in Kansas to be a candidate for the Office of Attorney General.

The bill would take effect January 1, 2019.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by Representative Carpenter.

In the House Committee on Elections hearing, Representative Carpenter provided proponent testimony stating current Kansas law includes no age or residency requirements for candidates for Governor or Lieutenant Governor. The Director of Elections (Director), Office of the Secretary of State, also appeared as a proponent, testifying

\*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>

in favor of adding minimal age and residency requirements for candidates for statewide elected offices. The Director stated the effective date of the bill should be after the 2018 elections so as to avoid a conflict concerning current candidates who may not meet these requirements.

A current candidate for the Office of the Governor provided opponent written-only testimony to the House Committee, which stated the bill would discourage political participation and block potentially qualified candidates based on age.

No further testimony was provided.

The House Committee voted to pass the bill without recommendation.

The House Committee of the Whole amended the bill to require a candidate for the office of Attorney General to be licensed to practice law in Kansas. The House Committee of the Whole also amended the bill to remove the four-year residency requirement for candidates for the office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor present in the bill as introduced.

In the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government hearing, Representative Carpenter and the Director provided proponent testimony. A private citizen who said he is a candidate for Governor provided opponent testimony. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to require a candidate for Governor and Lieutenant Governor to be 30 years of age or older and a qualified elector in Kansas and to require candidates required to be qualified electors to be so by the deadline for filing for the office.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, enactment of the bill would have no fiscal impact.