HOUSE BILL No. 2153

By Committee on Taxation

1-22

9 AN ACT relating to county appraisers; providing for the election of county appraisers; amending K.S.A. 19-425, 19-432, 19-433, 19-434, 19-435, 25-101, 75-5105a, 79-1412a, 79-1455 and 79-1479 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 25-213, 25-611 and 79-1476 and repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 19-426, 19-428 and 19-431 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 19-430.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. At the general election in 2008, and each fourth year thereafter, a county appraiser shall be elected in each county for a term of four years. Such county appraiser, before entering upon the duties of office, shall execute and file with the county treasurer a good and sufficient corporate surety bond, conditioned on the faithful performance of the duties of office. Such bond shall be issued by a company authorized to do business in Kansas, in an amount fixed by the board of county commissioners of not less than \$10,000. No person shall be eligible for the nomination or election to the office of county appraiser unless such person is a certified Kansas appraiser.

New Sec. 2. If a vacancy in the office of county appraiser should occur by death, resignation, or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of a qualified elector of the county in the manner herein provided. If the vacancy occurs on or after May 1 of the second year of the term, the person so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term and until a successor is elected and qualifies. If the vacancy occurs before May 1 of the second year of the term, the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve until a successor is elected and qualifies at the next general election to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Nomination and election of such successor shall be in the same manner as nomination and election of a county appraiser for a regular term. Appointments hereunder shall be made in the manner provided by law for filling vacancies in the office of member of the house of representatives.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 19-425 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-425. The county or district appraiser appointed elected under the provisions of this act shall have all the powers and duties vested in and imposed

upon county assessors by law except as otherwise provided herein. From and after the effective date of this act any reference in the Kansas Statutes Annotated or amendments thereto to the "assessor" or "county assessor" or words of similar import shall be construed as referring to the "county appraiser". or "district appraiser. He The county appraiser shall appoint deputy appraisers and fix their salaries with the consent and approval of the board of county commissioners or district board. Each deputy appraiser, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall take and subscribe to an oath in like manner as that provided for the county or district appraiser. With the consent and approval of the board of county com-missioners or district board, he, the appraiser may appoint such special-ized help as he such appraiser may need to properly assess specific prop-erties and may pay them such compensation as the board of county commissioners or district board shall provide. The board of county com-missioners or district board shall furnish him necessary office space and such clerical help as may be needed to carry out the duties of his the office.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 19-432 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-432. The director of property valuation shall maintain a current list of persons eligible to be appointed to the office of appraiser qualified as certified Kansas appraisers. Periodic issuance of this list shall constitute the official list of eligible Kansas appraisers who are candidates for appointment. Inclusion on this list shall be made dependent upon successful completion of a written examination as adopted and administered by the director.

The director of property valuation shall be required to conduct training courses annually for the purpose of training appraisal candidates. These courses shall be designed to prepare students to successfully complete the written examinations required for eligible Kansas appraiser status.

Once certified, an eligible Kansas appraiser may retain that status only through successful completion of additional appraisal courses at intervals as determined by the director of property valuation. The director shall be required to conduct training courses annually for the purpose of providing the additional curriculum required for retention of Kansas appraiser status. The director may accept recognized appraisal courses as an alternative to courses conducted by the director's office division of property valuations to fulfill this requirement for the maintenance of eligible Kansas appraiser status.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 19-433 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-433. The county or district appraiser appointed elected under the provisions of this act shall take and subscribe to an oath as county officials.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 19-434 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-434. The appraiser of each county or district appointed elected under the provisions of this act shall receive an annual salary in an amount which shall

be fixed by resolution of the board of county commissioners of the county or district board of the district.

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 19-435 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-435. The board of county commissioners or district board shall allow any appraiser, deputy, or employee his actual and necessary travel and subsistence expense incurred in the performance of his such person's duties and shall allow mileage to any such officer, deputy, or employee at the rate prescribed by law for each mile actually and necessarily traveled in a privately owned vehicle in the performance of his duties.

Sec. 8. K.S.A. 25-101 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-101. On the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November of each evennumbered year, there shall be held a general election to elect officers as follows:

At each alternate election, prior to the year in which the term of office of the president and vice-president of the United States will expire, there shall be elected the electors of president and vice-president of the United States to which the state may be entitled at the time of such election;

at each such election, when the term of a United States senator for this state shall expire during the next year, there shall be elected a United States senator;

at each such election there shall be elected the representatives in congress to which the state may be entitled at the time of such election;

at each alternate election, prior to the year in which their regular terms of office will expire, there shall be elected a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer and state commissioner of insurance;

at each such election there shall be elected such members of the state board of education as provided by law;

at each such election, when, in a judicial district in which judges of the district court are elected, the term of any district judge expires during the next year, or a vacancy in a district judgeship has been filled by appointment more than 30 days prior to the election, there shall be elected a district judge of such judicial district;

at each such election, when, in a judicial district in which judges of the district court are elected, the term of any district magistrate judge expires during the next year, or a vacancy in a district magistrate judgeship has been filled by appointment more than 30 days prior to the election, there shall be elected a district magistrate judge of such judicial district;

at each alternate election, prior to the year in which the regular term of office of state senators shall expire, there shall be elected a state senator in each state senatorial district:

at each election there shall be elected a representative from each state representative district;

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at each alternate election there shall be elected, in each county, a county clerk, county treasurer, *county appraiser*, register of deeds, county or district attorney, sheriff and such other officers as provided by law;

at each alternate election, in counties that may by law be entitled to elect such officer, there shall be elected a county surveyor;

at each election, when the term of county commissioner in any district in any county shall expire during the next year, there shall be elected from such district a county commissioner.

This section shall apply to the filling of vacancies only so far as is consistent with the provisions of law relating thereto.

Sec. 9. K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 25-213 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-213. At all national and state primary elections, the national and state offices as specified for each in this section shall be printed upon the official primary election ballot for national and state offices and the county and township offices as specified for each in this section shall be printed upon the official primary election ballot for county and township offices. The official primary election ballots shall have the following heading:

OFFICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

_____ Party

To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot make a cross or check mark in the square at the left of the person's name. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space, if any is provided, and make a cross or check mark in the square to the left.

The words national and state or the words county and township shall appear on the line preceding the part of the form shown above.

The form shown shall be followed by the names of the persons for whom nomination petitions or declarations have been filed according to law for political parties having primary elections, and for the national and state offices in the following order: United States senator, United States representative from _____ district, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, commissioner of insurance, senator _____ district, representative _____ district, district judge _ district, district magistrate judge ____ district, district attorney ____ judicial district, and member state board of education ____ district. For county and township offices the form shall be followed by the names of persons for whom nomination petitions or declarations have been filed according to law for political parties having primary elections in the following order: commissioner _____ district, county clerk, treasurer, county appraiser, register of deeds, county attorney, sheriff, township trustee, township treasurer, township clerk. When any office is not to be elected, it shall be omitted from the ballot. Other offices to be elected but not listed, shall be inserted in the proper places. For each

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office there shall be a statement of the number to vote for.

To the left of each name there shall be printed a square. Official primary election ballots may be printed in one or more columns. The names certified by the secretary of state or county election officer shall be printed on official primary election ballots and no others. In case there are no nomination petitions or declarations on file for any particular office, the title to the office shall be printed on the ballot followed by a blank line with a square, and such title, followed by a blank line, may be printed in the list of candidates published in the official paper. No blank line shall be printed following any office where there are nomination petitions or declarations on file for the office except following the offices of precinct committeeman and precinct committeewoman. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person's name shall be printed more than once on either the official primary election ballot for national and state offices or the official primary election ballot for county and township offices. No name that is printed on the official primary election ballot as a candidate of a political party shall be printed or written in as a candidate for any office on the official primary election ballot of any other political party. If a person is a candidate for the unexpired term for an office, the person's name may be printed on the same ballot as a candidate for the next regular term for such office. The name of any candidate on the ballot may be printed on the same ballot as such candidate and also as a candidate for precinct committeeman or committeewoman. No name that is printed on the official primary election ballot for national and state offices shall be printed or written in elsewhere on such ballot or on the official primary election ballot for county and township offices except for precinct committeeman or committeewoman. No name that is printed on the official primary election ballot for county and township offices shall be printed or written in on the official primary election ballot for national and state offices or elsewhere on such county and township ballot except for precinct committeeman or committeewoman.

No person shall be elected to the office of precinct committeeman or precinct committeewoman where no nomination petitions or declarations have been filed, unless the person receives at least five write-in votes. As a result of a primary election, no person shall receive the nomination and no person's name shall be printed on the official general election ballot when no nomination petitions or declarations were filed, unless the person receives votes equal in number to not less than 10% of the electors who voted for the office of secretary of state at the last preceding general election for such office in the state, county or district in which the office is sought, except that a candidate for township office may receive the nomination and have such person's name printed on the ballot where no nomination petitions or declarations have been filed if such candidate

receives three or more write-in votes. No such person shall be required to obtain more than 5,000 votes.

- Sec. 10. K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 25-611 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-611. (a) The arrangement of offices on the official general ballot for national and state offices for those offices to be elected shall be in the following order: Names of candidates for the offices of president and vice-president, United States senator, United States representative _____ district, governor and lieutenant governor running together, secretary of state, attorney general, (and any other officers elected from the state as a whole), state senator _____ district, state representative _____ district, district judge _____ district, district magistrate judge _____ district, district attorney _____ judicial district, and state board of education member _____ district.
- (b) The arrangement of offices on the official general ballot for county and township offices for those offices to be elected shall be in the following order: Names of candidates for county commissioner _____ district, county clerk, county treasurer, county appraiser, register of deeds, county attorney, sheriff, township trustee, township treasurer, township clerk.
- Sec. 11. K.S.A. 75-5105a is hereby amended to read as follows: 75-5105a. The director of property valuation shall:
- (a) Devise and prescribe uniform assessment forms and records, property-identification maps, land-classification maps, land-value maps, permanent record cards, and other essential assessment tools, and to assist each county with the installation and maintenance of the same.
- (b) Devise or prescribe guides, or both, for the valuation of personal property. The director of property valuation may furnish to each county one copy of each guide so prescribed and a copy or copies of each guide so devised. In the preparation of such guides, the director of property valuation shall confer with representatives of the county appraisers and district appraisers, and shall seek counsel from official representatives of organized groups interested in and familiar with the value of classes of property with which they are concerned.
- (c) Render all assistance possible toward uniform assessments within the counties and throughout the state.
- (d) Assist county appraisers and district appraisers to determine the fair market value in money of nonstate assessed properties, the valuation of which requires specialized technical knowledge.
- (e) Compile sales ratio data as provided by K.S.A. 79-1486 through 79-1493, and amendments thereto, and to analyze such assessment data.
- (f) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.
- Sec. 12. K.S.A. 79-1412a is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-43 1412a. (a) County appraisers and district appraisers shall perform the

1 following duties:

First. Install and maintain such records and data relating to all property in the county, taxable and exempt, as may be required by the director of property valuation.

Second. Annually, as of January 1, supervise the listing and appraisal of all real estate and personal property in the county subject to taxation except state-appraised property.

Third. Attend meetings of the county board of equalization for the purpose of aiding such board in the proper discharge of its duties, making all records available to the county board of equalization.

Fourth. Prepare the appraisal roll and certify such rolls to the county clerk.

Fifth. Supervise the township trustees, assistants, appraisers and other employees appointed by the appraiser in the performance of their duties.

Sixth. The county appraiser or district appraiser in setting values for various types of personal property, shall conform to the values for such property as shown in the personal property appraisal guides devised or prescribed by the director of property valuation.

Seventh. Carry on continuously throughout the year the process of appraising real property.

Eighth. If the county appraiser or district appraiser deems it advisable, such appraiser may appoint one or more advisory committees of not less than five persons representative of the various economic interests and geographic areas of the county to assist the appraiser in establishing unit land values, unit values for structures, productivity, classifications for agricultural lands, adjustments for location factors, and generally to advise on assessment procedures and methods.

Ninth. Perform such other duties as may be required by law.

(b) The director of property valuation shall give notice to county and district appraisers and county boards of equalization of any proposed changes in the guides, schedules or methodology for use in valuing property prescribed to the county and district appraisers for use in setting values for property within the county or district. Such notice shall also be published in the Kansas register and shall provide that such changes are available for public inspection. Changes and modifications in guides, schedules or methodology for use in valuing property which are prescribed by the director of property valuation for use by county and district appraisers on or after July 1 in any year shall not be utilized in establishing the value, for the current tax year, of any property, the value of which has previously been established for such year.

Sec. 13. K.S.A. 79-1455 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1455. Except for counties which have formed appraisal districts pursuant to K.S.A. 19-425 et seq., Each county shall comprise a separate appraisal

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unit, and the county appraiser shall have the duty of appraising all real and tangible personal property in the county.

District appraisers shall have the powers and duties vested in and imposed upon county appraisers. The term "county appraiser" shall be construed to include "district appraiser."

Each year all taxable and exempt real and tangible personal property shall be appraised by the county appraiser at its fair market value as of January 1 in accordance with K.S.A. 79-503a unless otherwise specified by law.

Sec. 14. K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 79-1476 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1476. The director of property valuation is hereby directed and empowered to administer and supervise a statewide program of reappraisal of all real property located within the state. Except as otherwise authorized by K.S.A. 19-428, and amendments thereto, Each county shall comprise a separate appraisal district under such program, and the county appraiser shall have the duty of reappraising all of the real property in the county pursuant to guidelines and timetables prescribed by the director of property valuation and of updating the same on an annual basis. In the case of multi-county appraisal districts, the district appraiser shall have the duty of reappraising all of the real property in each of the counties comprising the district pursuant to such guidelines and timetables and of updating the same on an annual basis. Commencing in 2000, every parcel of real property shall be actually viewed and inspected by the county or district appraiser once every six years. Any county or district appraiser shall be deemed to be in compliance with the foregoing requirement in any year if 17% or more of the parcels in such county or district are actually viewed and inspected.

Compilation of data for the initial preparation or updating of inventories for each parcel of real property and entry thereof into the state computer system as provided for in K.S.A. 79-1477, and amendments thereto, shall be completed not later than January 1, 1989. Whenever the director determines that reappraisal of all real property within a county is complete, notification thereof shall be given to the governor and to the state board of tax appeals.

Valuations shall be established for each parcel of real property at its fair market value in money in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 79-503a, and amendments thereto.

In addition thereto valuations shall be established for each parcel of land devoted to agricultural use upon the basis of the agricultural income or productivity attributable to the inherent capabilities of such land in its current usage under a degree of management reflecting median production levels in the manner hereinafter provided. A classification system for all land devoted to agricultural use shall be adopted by the director of

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property valuation using criteria established by the United States department of agriculture soil conservation service. For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1989, all land devoted to agricultural use which is subject to the federal conservation reserve program shall be classified as cultivated dry land for the purpose of valuation for property tax purposes pursuant to this section. For all taxable years commencing after December 31, 1999, all land devoted to agricultural use which is subject to the federal wetlands reserve program shall be classified as native grassland for the purpose of valuation for property tax purposes pursuant to this section. Productivity of land devoted to agricultural use shall be determined for all land classes within each county or homogeneous region based on an average of the eight calendar years immediately preceding the calendar year which immediately precedes the year of valuation, at a degree of management reflecting median production levels. The director of property valuation shall determine median production levels based on information available from state and federal crop and livestock reporting services, the soil conservation service, and any other sources of data that the director considers appropriate.

The share of net income from land in the various land classes within each county or homogeneous region which is normally received by the landlord shall be used as the basis for determining agricultural income for all land devoted to agricultural use except pasture or rangeland. The net income normally received by the landlord from such land shall be determined by deducting expenses normally incurred by the landlord from the share of the gross income normally received by the landlord. The net rental income normally received by the landlord from pasture or rangeland within each county or homogeneous region shall be used as the basis for determining agricultural income from such land. The net rental income from pasture and rangeland which is normally received by the landlord shall be determined by deducting expenses normally incurred from the gross income normally received by the landlord. Commodity prices, crop yields and pasture and rangeland rental rates and expenses shall be based on an average of the eight calendar years immediately preceding the calendar year which immediately precedes the year of valuation. Net income for every land class within each county or homogeneous region shall be capitalized at a rate determined to be the sum of the contract rate of interest on new federal land bank loans in Kansas on July 1 of each year averaged over a five-year period which includes the five years immediately preceding the calendar year which immediately precedes the year of valuation, plus a percentage not less than .75% nor more than 2.75%, as determined by the director of property valuation, except that the capitalization rate calculated for property tax year 2003, and all such years thereafter, shall not be less than 11%

nor more than 12%.

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Based on the foregoing procedures the director of property valuation shall make an annual determination of the value of land within each of the various classes of land devoted to agricultural use within each county or homogeneous region and furnish the same to the several county appraisers who shall classify such land according to its current usage and apply the value applicable to such class of land according to the valuation schedules prepared and adopted by the director of property valuation under the provisions of this section.

It is the intent of the legislature that appraisal judgment and appraisal standards be followed and incorporated throughout the process of data collection and analysis and establishment of values pursuant to this section.

For the purpose of the foregoing provisions of this section the phrase "land devoted to agricultural use" shall mean and include land, regardless of whether it is located in the unincorporated area of the county or within the corporate limits of a city, which is devoted to the production of plants, animals or horticultural products, including but not limited to: Forages; grains and feed crops; dairy animals and dairy products; poultry and poultry products; beef cattle, sheep, swine and horses; bees and apiary products; trees and forest products; fruits, nuts and berries; vegetables; nursery, floral, ornamental and greenhouse products. Land devoted to agricultural use shall not include those lands which are used for recreational purposes, other than that land established as a controlled shooting area pursuant to K.S.A. 32-943, and amendments thereto, which shall be deemed to be land devoted to agricultural use, suburban residential acreages, rural home sites or farm home sites and yard plots whose primary function is for residential or recreational purposes even though such properties may produce or maintain some of those plants or animals listed in the foregoing definition.

The term "expenses" shall mean those expenses typically incurred in producing the plants, animals and horticultural products described above including management fees, production costs, maintenance and depreciation of fences, irrigation wells, irrigation laterals and real estate taxes, but the term shall not include those expenses incurred in providing temporary or permanent buildings used in the production of such plants, animals and horticultural products.

The provisions of this act shall not be construed to conflict with any other provisions of law relating to the appraisal of tangible property for taxation purposes including the equalization processes of the county and state board of tax appeals.

Sec. 15. K.S.A. 79-1479 is hereby amended to read as follows: 79-1479. (a) On or before January 15, 1992, and quarterly thereafter, the

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county or district appraiser shall submit to the director of property valuation a progress report indicating actions taken during the preceding quarter calendar year to implement the appraisal of property in the county or district. Whenever the director of property valuation shall determine that any county has failed, neglected or refused to properly provide for the appraisal of property or the updating of the appraisals on an annual basis in substantial compliance with the provisions of law and the guidelines and timetables prescribed by the director, the director shall file with the state board of tax appeals a complaint stating the facts upon which the director has made the determination of noncompliance as provided by K.S.A. 79-1413a, and amendments thereto. If, as a result of such proceeding, the state board of tax appeals finds that the county is not in substantial compliance with the provisions of law and the guidelines and timetables of the director of property valuation providing for the appraisal of all property in the county or the updating of the appraisals on an annual basis, it shall order the immediate assumption of the duties of the office of county appraiser by the director of the division of property valuation until such time as the director of property valuation determines that the county is in substantial compliance with the provisions of law. In addition, the board shall order the state treasurer to withhold all or a portion of the county's entitlement to moneys from either or both of the local ad valorem tax reduction fund and the city and county revenue sharing fund for the year following the year in which the order is issued. Upon service of any such order on the board of county commissioners, the appraiser shall immediately deliver to the director of property valuation, or the director's designee, all books, records and papers pertaining to the appraiser's office.

Any county for which the director of the division of property valuation is ordered by the state board of tax appeals to assume the responsibility and duties of the office of county appraiser shall reimburse the state for the actual costs incurred by the director of the division of property valuation in the assumption and carrying out of such responsibility and duties, including any contracting costs in the event it is necessary for the director of property valuation to contract with private appraisal firms to carry out such responsibilities and duties.

(b) On or before June 1 of each year, the director of property valuation shall review the appraisal of property in each county or district to determine if property within the county or district is being appraised or valued in accordance with the requirements of law. If the director determines the property in any county or district is not being appraised in accordance with the requirements of law, the director of property valuation shall notify the county or district appraiser and the board of county commissioners of any county or counties affected that the county has 30

days within which to submit to the director a plan for bringing the appraisal of property within the county into compliance.

If a plan is submitted and approved by the director, the county or district shall proceed to implement the plan as submitted. The director shall continue to monitor the program to insure that the plan is implemented as submitted. If no plan is submitted or if the director does not approve the plan, the director shall petition the state board of tax appeals for a review of the plan or, if no plan is submitted, for authority for the division of property valuation to assume control of the appraisal program of the county and to proceed to bring the same into compliance with the requirements of law.

If the state board of tax appeals approves the plan, the county or district appraiser shall proceed to implement the plan as submitted. If no plan has been submitted or the plan submitted is not approved, the board shall fix a time within which the county may submit a plan or an amended plan for approval. If no plan is submitted and approved within the time prescribed by the board, the board shall order the division of property valuation to assume control of the appraisal program of the county and shall certify its order to the state treasurer who shall withhold distributions of the county's share of moneys from the county and city revenue sharing fund and the local ad valorem tax reduction fund and credit the same to the general fund of the state for the year following the year in which the board's order is made. The director of property valuation shall certify the amount of the cost incurred by the division in bringing the program in compliance to the state board of tax appeals. The board shall order the county commissioners to reimburse the state for such costs.

(c) The state board of tax appeals shall within 60 days after the publication of the Kansas assessment/sales ratio study review such publication to determine county compliance with K.S.A. 79-1439, and amendments thereto. If in the determination of the board one or more counties are not in substantial compliance and the director of property valuation has not acted under subsection (b) above, the board shall order the director of property valuation to take such corrective action as is necessary or to show cause for noncompliance.

Sec. 16. K.S.A. 19-425, 19-426, 19-428, 19-431, 19-432, 19-433, 19-434, 19-435, 25-101, 75-5105a, 79-1412a, 79-1455 and 79-1479 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 19-430, 25-213, 25-611 and 79-1476 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 17. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.