

SESSION OF 2002

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2625**

As Amended by House Committee of the Whole

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2625, as amended by the House Committee of the Whole, would create new districts for the Kansas State House. The redistricting plan described by the bill is named *Reconciliation Amendment*. The August, 2002 primary election will be the first time the new districts would be used.

The redistricting plan is based on recalculated 2000 U.S. Census results as required by the *Kansas Constitution*. Based on those population figures, the ideal House district population is 21,378 people. The smallest district in *Reconciliation Amendment* would contain 20,320 people and the largest district would contain 22,447 people. The overall deviation for the plan is 9.95 percent.

Reconciliation Amendment includes four districts, 35, 62, 110, and 116 in which two incumbents live. No incumbent lives in districts 38, 48, 49, and 105. Districts were built using election precincts (VTDs) and Census blocks. The plan splits 53 VTDs, 7 of which affect no population.

Maps and reports that describe the plans can be viewed on the Kansas Legislative Research Department's Internet site:

<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/ksleg/KLRD/Redistrict/HousePlans.html>

Paper maps that display districts that would be created by the bill can be obtained by contacting Kansas Legislative Research Department.

*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.accesskansas.org/legislature/>

Background

During the regular 2002 Legislative Session, new state House, Senate, Board of Education, and congressional districts are to be enacted by the Legislature. The goal of redistricting is to equalize population among districts. By law, the Kansas Legislature is composed of 125 members of the House of Representatives and 40 Senators.

Article 10, Section 1 of the *Kansas Constitution* requires that the Legislature redraw legislative districts each decade in the year ending in 2. Redistricting bills must be signed by the Governor and new legislative districts must be reviewed and approved by the Kansas Supreme Court.

The House Select Committee on Redistricting recommended passage of the substitute bill which would have enacted the plan named *Per Aspera*. That plan's overall deviation from the ideal House district population was 9.91 percent. The range of district population from smallest to largest in *Per Aspera* would have been 20,329 to 22,447.

Per Aspera included four districts, 35, 63, 110, and 116 in which two incumbents live. No incumbent lives in districts 38, 48, 49, and 105. Districts were built using election precincts (VTDs) and Census blocks. The plan split 61 VTDs, 15 of which affect no population.

The differences between *Per Aspera* and *Reconciliation Amendment* are in Crawford, Doniphan, Jackson, Nemaha, and Sedgwick counties.

The fiscal note on the introduced version of the bill states that the Secretary of State's office may incur additional expenses that result from working with each county election officer to ensure that all registered voters are reassigned to the correct representative district; redesigning various computer spreadsheets, tables, maps, directories, and other publications to account for each of the state's precincts in the correct district; rewriting the computer program that tallies results on election night; and redesigning official election abstracts which are provided to county election officers for their use in certifying election results. The fiscal note states that the Secretary of State's office indicated that expenses related to these tasks could be financed within current resources and staffing levels, provided that the redistricting bill

is enacted reasonably early in the 2002 Legislative Session. If redistricting legislation is not passed until April or May, the agency notes that additional temporary employees and outside computer programming assistance will be needed to complete the required tasks before the primary election. The agency cannot estimate the potential cost at this time.

The fiscal note also includes an observation of the Secretary of State's office that there is a fiscal impact on counties, because each county election officer would carry out some of the required tasks. Some counties would incur costs for new software and additional computer programming to reassign the registered voters in their counties to the proper district. Counties also would redesign spreadsheets and rewrite computer programs to match precincts to the correct legislative district and tabulate vote totals to be certified to the Secretary of State's office. The Secretary of State's office is unable to estimate potential costs to counties. The Kansas Association of Counties indicates there would be a fiscal impact associated with the introduced version of the bill, especially with the software upgrades, but the Association was unable to estimate any such costs. Any potential fiscal effect would be in addition to amounts provided for redistricting in the Legislative Research Department and Secretary of State's budgets, as presented in the *FY 2003 Governor's Budget Report*.

The substitute bill, as amended, does not contain any provision that would alter the assessment of the fiscal impact on either the Secretary of State's office or counties.