

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2642

As Recommended by House Committee on
Ethics and Elections

Brief*

HB 2642 would change the deadlines by which publication notices for elections must be sent, as well as the deadline by which party chairpersons must notify county election officers of any changes suggested to the ballot.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Increase from 25 to 35 the number of days prior to a general election, by which time the county election officer must mail a copy of the general election notice to each person nominated for public office (except for U.S. President and Vice President and judicial retention candidates).
- Increase from two weeks to 35 days the amount of time prior to a primary election, by which time the county election officer must mail a copy of the primary election notice to each person whose name is to appear on the official county ballot.
- Increase from 11 to 30 the number of days preceding a primary election, by which time the chairman of each party is required to suggest any ballot changes to the county election officer.

Background

KSA 25-1120 requires county election officers to prepare advance ballots for any primary, general, or question submitted election not later than 20 days prior to the election. Currently, Kansas law requires notices be sent to candidates not later than two weeks prior to a

*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>

primary election, and not later than 25 days prior to a general election.

The Lyon County Clerk and Election Officer appeared as a proponent for HB 2642, stating the time given for publication of the notice to be sent is too short. The election officer stated more time is needed to mail the publications to candidates and party chairpersons. No testimony was received in opposition to the bill.

According to the fiscal note submitted for the bill, the Secretary of State's Office indicated the bill would not have a fiscal effect on its operations. The bill may save counties money in certain cases if ballot errors are discovered prior to printing the ballots. In the case of errors discovered after printing, counties would spend money reprinting the corrected ballot, as is currently the procedure.

The bill was placed on the consent calendar.