

SESSION OF 2025

## SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 4

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

### **Brief\***

SB 4, as amended, would, on and after January 1, 2026, change the deadline for the receipt by mail of all advance voting ballots from the third day following the date of the election to 7:00 p.m. on the date of the election.

### **Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Thompson.

### ***Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs***

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of Honest Elections Project Action and Opportunity Solutions Project. The proponents generally stated the bill would increase voter confidence in elections by providing more timely results, providing clarity to voters regarding the deadline, and changing the state's deadline to be in line with a majority of other states.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of Business Owners for Election Integrity and the Public Interest Legal Foundation and six private citizens.

**Opponent** testimony was provided by a representative of Loud Light Civic Action and two private citizens. The

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\*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

opponents generally stated concerns about the timeliness of mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service and that valid votes cast on or before election day would no longer be counted if the deadline is changed.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Kansas, the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, Health Forward Foundation, Kansas African American Affairs Commission, Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEOA), Kansas Interfaith Action, League of Women Voters of Kansas, United Community Services of Johnson County, and Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County and 45 private citizens.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Secretary of State.

No other testimony was provided.

### ***House Committee on Elections***

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of Honest Elections Project Action, who stated the bill would promote public confidence in elections and change the state's deadline to be similar to that of numerous other states, including surrounding states.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a representative of Heritage Action for America and five private citizens.

**Opponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the ACLU of Kansas, Disability Rights Center of Kansas, League of Women Voters of Kansas, and Loud Light Civic Action. The conferees generally expressed concerns about delays in mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service and the negative impacts the bill would have on voters in rural areas and voters with disabilities.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by representatives of Kansas Interfaith Action and KCCEOA and five private citizens.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Secretary of State.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to change the effective date to on and after January 1, 2026.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Secretary of State indicates it would use existing resources to update training materials for local election officials and update educational and promotional materials for the public with the new deadline.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates the bill could increase the number of potentially invalidated ballots that arrive late via mail, which could increase costs for counties if there are disputes or questions that the counties would have to process, but is unable to estimate a fiscal effect.

Elections; advance voting ballots; advance voting ballot deadline; county election office; Secretary of State; mail-in ballots