

SESSION OF 2003

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2214

As Recommended by House Committee on
Ethics and Elections

Brief*

HB 2214 amends the state ethics laws. The bill authorizes the county election officer to appoint a special write-in board to unseal sealed ballots and count write-in votes if the original canvass fails to provide a tally sheet of those votes. The county election officer would appoint the special write-in board from county election boards or from a pool of trained board workers. The special write-in committee would be comprised of members of different political parties.

Background

A representative of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials testified in support of the bill. She testified that optical scanning systems do not read write-in names on the ballot and relies on election workers to complete the tally sheet of write-in votes. She stated that Wyandotte County has experienced problems with election workers failing to complete the abstract of write-in votes. She stated that HB 2214 would resolve the problem.

The Division of the Budget's fiscal note indicates that passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect.

*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/klrd>