

SESSION OF 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2629

As Recommended by House Committee on
Ethics and Elections

Brief*

HB 2629 would reschedule the state's presidential preference primary to a date certain, that being the third Tuesday in January, beginning in the year 2008. The bill also changes the filing deadline for candidates for the office of President of the United States to correspond to the election date change.

Background

Current state law requires the state to hold a presidential preference primary on a date selected by the Secretary of State, provided (1) the Secretary of State determines there is no common date on which at least five other states are holding a presidential preference primary election, a delegate or mass convention or a caucus at which national convention delegates are selected and (2) it is on or before the first Tuesday in April of the appropriate year.

Representative Dale Swenson introduced the bill. A representative of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters appeared as a proponent. No one testified in opposition to the measure. Testimony received indicated the April primary date may render the Kansas primary election inconsequential. The last presidential primary held in Kansas was for the 1992 election. The 2000 and 2004 primary elections were cancelled due to budget constraints.

The fiscal note issued for the bill indicated HB 2629 would not have a fiscal effect on the Secretary of State's Office operations, because current law requires the state to conduct a 2008 presidential primary election. That primary election will require an appropriation, regardless

*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>

of when it is held. In 2003, the Secretary of State requested \$1,750,000 for the FY 2004 primary before it was cancelled.