

01/26/2025

HB2057

Opponent

Written Only

Chairman Proctor and Members of the House Elections Committee,

I am submitting my opponent testimony for HB2057. I am not in support of this bill as I believe it is overcomplicated and there are better and more fiscally responsible ways of achieving the same result.

While I understand the reason for the bill and taking the appointment away from the governor and giving it to the legislature, this seems overly complicated. Not sure why both parties need to be involved to vote on a replacement, when the people of the state voted for a person in a certain party for these partisan races. I believe the party should have a say in the temporary replacement. Also, if this nomination period was to happen out of session, the chambers would need to be called back to a special session to vote, thus costing the taxpayers more money.

I am going to give what I think is an easier and more fiscally responsible way of filling a vacancy.

Since there is no mention of electing US Senators in the US Constitution, it should be left up to the states to find a replacement. Since this race is partisan, the party of the vacating senator should have a say in the temporary replacement (so long as the replacement meets all eligibility requirements). The people of the state elected him and the party, so the party should be the one to have a say in filling the temporary position. When filling a vacancy on the US House side, the congressional districts of the residing party have a convention and vote on a replacement. I believe it should be no different for a Senator. Convene all four districts and have a vote. This is also a plus as the taxpayers will not need to pay for a special session to be called in Topeka. The temporary position will be held until the next general election.

The two additional races, State Treasurer and State Insurance Commissioner, can also use the same rules for filling a vacancy.

I believe the proposed way of filling a vacancy is overcomplicated and I will not be in support of HB2057.

Respectfully,

Brett Anderson
Republican Precinct Committeeman
Sedgwick County