

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2016

As Recommended by House Committee on
Education

Brief*

HB 2016 would require a county election officer to remove the name of a registered voter from the registration books and party affiliation lists when an obituary for such voter is published online by a funeral home located in the county.

[*Note:* Continuing law requires a county election officer to remove a registered voter from the registration books and party affiliation lists when an obituary notice reporting the death of such voter appears in a newspaper having general circulation in the county.]

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of Representative Waggoner.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Office of the Secretary of State and the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association. The proponents generally stated the bill would allow county election officers to use multiple sources to confirm the death of a registered voter and ensure that voter registration rolls are up-to-date.

*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/>

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by two private citizens.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the ACLU of Kansas.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, 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 regarding the provisions of the bill.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the bill would have a fiscal effect associated with investigating the legitimacy of private obituaries which would increase the election officers' workload.

Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Elections; voter registration; registration books; party affiliation lists