

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2018

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2018 would prohibit county election officers from disqualifying active military members and such members' spouses and other dependents from service as poll workers on the basis of residency or registered voter status. The bill would also add U.S. citizenship and Kansas residency as requirements for service as an election board judge or clerk.

[Note: Continuing law requires all election judges and election clerks to be residents of the area served by the voting place in which they are a judge or clerk.]

The bill would define "active military member" for poll worker purposes as any person with full-time duty status in the armed forces of the United States, including members of the national guard and reserve.

Background

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

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was presented by representatives of Bird Dog Recruitment and Consulting, Military Officers Association of America, and

*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/>

Secure Families Initiative. The proponents generally stated the bill would allow military members and their families that maintain residence in their home state to serve as poll workers like military members and families that choose to move their residency to where they are stationed, and the bill would help address the shortage of poll workers the state is facing.

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

A representative of the Office of the Secretary of State (Secretary) presented neutral testimony, stating the Secretary has no issue with the premise of the bill and requesting an amendment to strike the reference to the Secretary qualifying poll workers, as the Secretary does not have that authority.

A private citizen presented **opponent** testimony, expressing concerns that allowing certain privileges for military members and their families historically has been the precedent to other nationwide voting practices, such as mail-in ballots.

Written-only opponent testimony was submitted by three additional private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Require election board judges and clerks to be U.S. citizens;
- Require election board judges and clerks to live in Kansas;
- Remove a requirement the election board clerk or judge live within the area served by the voting place in which they are to be a clerk or judge;

- Remove a requirement the election board clerk or judge have the qualifications of an elector in the election at which they serve; and
- Remove language prohibiting the Secretary of State from prohibiting the disqualification of poll workers.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Secretary indicates the bill would not have an effect on agency operations. The Kansas Association of Counties also indicates enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on counties.

Poll worker; military spouses; election board judge; election board clerk