

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2021

As Recommended by House Committee on
Elections

Brief*

HB 2021 would require the Office of the Secretary of State, after consulting with county election officers, to adopt rules and regulations by January 1, 2026, for the use of remote ballot boxes by county election officers for the return of advance voting ballots.

The bill would require the rules and regulations to include:

- The dates, times, and locations for the use of remote ballot boxes; and
- Any other requirements the Secretary of State (Secretary) deems necessary to preserve the integrity of the ballots, the remote ballot boxes, and the election process.

The bill would define “remote ballot boxes” to mean any form of locked ballot boxes designated by the county election officer as available for the use of depositing advance voting ballots. The definition would not include any ballot boxes located in a county election office or satellite advance voting site.

*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/>

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 on the bill, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Secretary. The representative stated the bill would permit the Secretary to issue rules and regulations on the use of remote ballot boxes, ensure all counties have standard practices and security measures, and assure voters their ballots are received by the election office.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas Association of Counties and Kansas County Clerk and Election Officer Association.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the ACLU of Kansas and 14 private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

A fiscal note was not available when the House Committee took action on the bill.

Elections; Secretary of State; rules and regulations; county election officers; advance voting ballots; remote ballot boxes