

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2056

As Recommended by House Committee on
Elections

Brief*

HB 2056 would amend election law regarding nominations for elected office to require that any person nominated for an elected office accept such nomination and restrict the number of nominations a person may accept to one nomination.

***Nominations by Political Parties Not Participating in
Primaries***

Continuing law authorizes any recognized political party that does not participate in a primary election to, by means of a delegate or mass convention or caucus, nominate one person for each office that is to be filled at the next election and file a certificate of such nomination. [Note: Recognized political parties in Kansas that currently do not participate in primary elections include the Libertarian Party, No Labels Kansas, and United Kansas.]

The bill would require any person listed on a certification of nomination to submit a signed and notarized declaration stating they accept the party's nomination for the designated office. The bill would prohibit any person from being a party's nominee until the declaration is submitted accordingly.

*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/>

Restriction on Number of Nominations

The bill would clarify that no person may accept more than one nomination for the same office. The bill would further prohibit any person from becoming a candidate for a different political party or as an independent candidate for office at a general election if such person has:

- Received and accepted a party nomination from a political party not participating in a primary election;
- Filed a declaration of intention to become a candidate for an office; or
- Filed a valid nomination petition to be an independent candidate.

Changing Political Party Nomination

The bill would, prior to the filing deadline established in statute, permit a person who has either received and accepted a party nomination, filed a declaration of intention to become a candidate, or filed a valid nomination petition to be an independent candidate to become a candidate for a different political party or an independent candidate if such person has:

- Declined a party nomination;
- Withdrawn from candidacy after nomination; or
- Withdrawn from a nomination.

Enforcement

The bill would direct the Secretary of State to enforce the provisions of the bill for all federal and state elected offices and direct the appropriate county election officer to enforce the provisions of the bill for all county and township elected offices.

Technical and Conforming Amendments

The bill would make technical and conforming amendments.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of a representative of the Office of the Secretary of State.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, a representative of the Secretary of State provided **proponent** testimony, stating the bill would eliminate two loopholes in Kansas election law. The conferee explained election law currently does not require a minor party's nominee to accept the nomination and permits candidates to run as a major party candidate and a minor party candidate, and the bill would close these loopholes.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Office of the Secretary of State states that it would use existing resources to update training materials for local election officials and update educational and promotional materials for the public.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect.

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

Elections; nomination procedures; political party