

SESSION OF 2025

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE
BILL NO. 2145**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Local Government

Brief*

Sub. for HB 2145 would amend law regarding county fair association boards to establish membership of the Butler County fair board. The bill would also move similar provisions regarding membership of the Cloud County fair board into the underlying county fair association board statute.

Continuing law establishes county fair boards of directors and their membership requirements, membership term lengths; frequency of elections; and required officers of the board, including a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and other officers as deemed required by the board. Continuing law states that the board shall represent each township of the county.

Butler County Fair Board

The bill would establish the Butler County fair board membership to consist of 15 appointed members. The terms of expiring fair board members or other vacancies would be filled by appointment at an annual meeting in December by the presiding county commissioners. One member would be appointed from each county commissioner district if possible, and no more than five members would be appointed from the county at large. Any person of legal voting age and residing in the county would be eligible for board membership.

*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/>

Cloud County Fair Board

The bill would move current law provisions regarding the membership of the Cloud County fair board. These provisions state the fair board consists of 12 appointed members. The terms of expiring fair board members or other vacancies are filled by appointment at an annual meeting in December by the presiding county commissioners. One member shall be appointed from each county commissioner district if possible, and one member shall be appointed from the county at large. Any person of legal voting age and residing in the county shall be eligible for board membership.

Board Membership Terms

For Cloud County, continuing law establishes a member's term of three years beginning January 1 and ending on December 31. Members of both boards would be eligible to serve unlimited consecutive terms, and vacancies would be filled by appointment by the remaining members of such board for the unexpired term of office. The bill would apply these terms to the new membership requirements the bill would impose for the Butler County fair board. The bill would require the Butler County and Cloud County fair boards to each elect a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer from among their members.

Continuing law requires a third of the members' terms to expire annually so that in the first election of a new board, a third of members' terms would be chosen for one year, a third for two years, and a third for three years. Continuing law also requires a personal notification of the annual election to be sent to every member of the board, and a notification be published in the county through newspaper of general circulation at least ten days prior to an annual election day.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Local Government at the request of Representative Blex.

House Committee on Local Government

In the House Committee hearing, a representative of the Butler County Administration Department provided **proponent** testimony. The proponent stated that under current law, the Butler County Fair Board membership is a 35-member board with 1 member from every township and 6 at large members. The proponent noted the difficulty in filling board positions with so many members.

No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to:

- Move provisions regarding the Cloud County fair board into law regarding county fair association boards;
- Make provisions regarding the Butler County and Cloud County fair boards to be the same except for the number of members from the county at large;
- Repeal the Cloud County fair board statute from law regarding counties; and
- Make technical amendments.

The House Committee recommended a substitute bill be passed to incorporate the amendments.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Kansas Association of Counties states that enactment of the bill could have a

fiscal effect on Butler County; however, the Association does not have enough information to estimate what that fiscal effect would be. The Association also states there would be no fiscal effect to any other Kansas county.

County fairs; county fair boards; Butler County fair board; Cloud County fair board