

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 231

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Federal and State Affairs

Brief*

SB 231 would amend election law regarding the solicitation of advance voting ballot applications.

Current law provides the requirements for any person who solicits by mail a registered voter to file an application for an advance voting ballot and includes an application for an advance voting ballot in such mailing. The bill would make the following amendments to these requirements:

- Remove the requirement that the name of the president, chief executive officer, or executive director be included in the mailing, if an organization is causing such solicitation to be mailed;
- Require the name and address of the individual or organization causing such solicitation to be mailed and the required disclosure statement —“Disclosure: This is not a government mailing. It is from a private individual or organization”—to be included on one page within the mailing instead of both on the exterior of the mailing and on each page contained within the mailing;
- Change the required font size for such information from 14-point or larger to 10-point or larger;

*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/>

- Clarify the requirement that the advance voting ballot application must be the official application provided by the Secretary of State or the appropriate county election office [*Note: Current law states the advance voting ballot application must be provided by the Secretary of State.*];
- Modify the requirement prohibiting any portion of an advance voting ballot application from being completed prior to mailing to allow the date of the election to be printed on the application prior to being mailed to registered voters; and
- Replace the requirement that the advance voting ballot application include an envelope addressed to the appropriate county election office with a requirement that the advance voting ballot application include information on how to mail such application to the appropriate county election office.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Senator Thompson.

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Office of the Secretary of State, who provided information on the 2021 legislation establishing the requirements for soliciting registered voters to submit an application for an advance voting ballot and the lawsuit that arose from the legislation. The representative stated the bill would retain requirements concerning mandatory disclosures while also reducing the burden when soliciting voters to apply for an advance mail ballot.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the Health Forward Foundation.

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 provide training and update manuals for county election officials, update the agency's website, and update public documents and information.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the bill could have a fiscal effect on counties if applications received by the county election offices are incomplete or unreadable, which would require additional staff time to assist voters in completing their applications, but is unable to estimate a fiscal effect.

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

Elections; advance voting ballot applications