

House Committee on Elections

Information on HB 2543

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on an amendment concerning HB 2543. This amendment, if adopted, states the Sedgwick County Election office may begin conducting audits beginning in 2016. HB 2543 gives the Secretary of State authority to pass rules and regulations to govern the conduct of the audit. The Secretary believes this would need to take place before Sedgwick County begins conducting an audit. The general length of time for a permanent regulation to be adopted is 4.5 months. The Secretary will be working with county election offices to develop the rules and regulations in a workable fashion for all counties. This will take some time to accomplish after the bill has been signed into law. Once the wording of the rules and regulations has been decided upon the following must occur:

- 1) The proposed regulation must be approved by the Secretary of Administration. This process typically takes between one and three weeks.
- 2) The proposed regulation must be approved by the Attorney General. This process typically takes several weeks.
- 3) Notice of a public hearing must be submitted at least 61 days before the hearing.
- 4) A public hearing is conducted, and changes may be required as a result of the public hearing. Any changes would require additional time for approval.
- 5) Allow for publication in the *Kansas Register*. This typically takes one week.
- 6) Permanent regulations takes place 15 days after publication in the *Kansas Register*.

As you can see, this timeline will be difficult to accomplish before the 2016 Primary Election. Especially with the uncertain time frame the Senate and Governor will take (assuming the bill is passed). Unveiling a new program for the first time in a Presidential General Election does not place the Sedgwick County Election Office in a favorable position to accomplish the legitimate goals outlined in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information concerning this bill. I am available for questions.