

February 12, 2016

The Honorable Mark Kahrs, Chairperson
House Committee on Elections
Statehouse, Room 286-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Kahrs:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2544 by House Committee on Elections

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2544 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2544 would amend existing law concerning voter registration to allow voters to register on election days. Voters who apply for advance ballots to be given to them in person would be able to register and vote immediately and would not be required to use provisional ballots. Voters who come to either the polling place in their precinct or a satellite advance voting site would be allowed to register and vote a provisional ballot on Election Day. The bill specifies the requirements for registration and proof of citizenship, and the circumstances relating to proof of citizenship under which a registration or ballot may be rejected. The bill also specifies how provisional ballots and proof of citizenship documents should be handled by election officials.

According to the Secretary of State, passage of HB 2544 would have a fiscal effect as the agency would need to update existing forms, procedures, guides, websites, instructions, public information, and other documentation. The agency believes the fiscal effect would be small, however, and could be accomplished within existing resources.

The Secretary of State reports that passage of the bill would result in additional costs to local governments because of the increased number of provisional ballots that would be issued to persons registering to vote and voting on the same day. The agency indicates that a new provisional envelope would need to be created and included with each provisional ballot case. There were approximately 30,000 provisional ballots cast in 2014. A provisional ballot envelope and ballot cost between \$1 and \$2 each, and the agency estimates that several thousand new provisional ballots could be issued statewide. In addition, the agency reports that it takes longer to process a provisional ballot than a regular ballot, which would require an increase in election board workers to process voters on Election Day in order to avoid creating additional lines at polling places.

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The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that passage of HB 2544 would have a fiscal effect on the counties but is unable to estimate what that effect might be. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2544 is not reflected in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Desiree Taliaferro, Secretary of State's Office
Melissa Wangemann, Association of Counties
Larry Baer, League of Municipalities