

March 21, 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 2659 by House Committee on Vision 2020

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2659 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2659 would amend existing law concerning elections to require a random manual audit or tally of election results for any election in which canvassers certify the results. The bill would establish the procedure to be followed in conducting the audit and in reporting the results. In addition, the bill would require that within five days prior to an election, the county election officer have any electronic or electromechanical voting systems used in a county tested to determine that the equipment can correctly record and count votes cast. The bill would require that any voting system equipment purchased on or after the effective date of the bill provide a paper record of each vote cast at the time the vote is cast, use open source software, provide a paper record of any poll book used at a polling place, and have the ability to be tested before an election and prior to the date of canvass. The bill would also add equipment with these capabilities to the requirements for voting systems approved by the Secretary of State.

According to the Secretary of State, passage of HB 2659 would require new procedures, guidelines, and training materials to be developed by the agency and provided to the county election offices. The agency indicates that costs associated with those materials could be paid out of existing resources. The agency also indicates that passage of the bill would have a fiscal effect on local governments because it would require them to hire board workers and purchase supplies needed for the manual audit. In addition, the Secretary states that there might also be computer programming costs associated with printing copies of electronic ballots to be manually counted. These costs would vary depending on how many ballots were counted and printed and how many races on each ballot were audited, as well as on the particular election affected. The agency notes that there are currently no voting machines certified for use in the state that meet the requirements of the bill. It is unable to estimate what the fiscal effect of requiring the new systems might be.

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March 21, 2016

Page 2—HB 2659

The Kansas Association of Counties states that passage of HB 2659 would result in additional costs to the counties for manual audits and for future purchases of the types of voting systems specified by the bill. However, the Association is unable to estimate what those costs might amount to. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2659 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: Melissa Wangemann, Association of Counties
Desiree Taliaferro, Secretary of State's Office