

SESSION OF 2015

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 239

As Amended by Senate Committee of the Whole

Brief*

SB 239, as amended, would repeal the statute calling for a presidential preference primary election and replace it with new law requiring each recognized political party to select a presidential nominee in accordance with party procedures, also required to be developed by the bill, for every presidential election beginning with the 2016 election.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs and would have canceled the 2016 presidential primary and postponed the next one until 2020. A representative of the Office of Secretary of State was the sole conferee, testifying favorably. The conferee stated 1992 was the last time a presidential preference primary election was held in Kansas. The primary, however, would entail a Secretary of State budget amendment request for approximately \$1.75 million. While the conferee indicated the Secretary of State is not taking a stand with respect to the advisability of holding such a primary election, the cost prompted the Office to propose the bill.

The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the bill to repeal law requiring a presidential preference primary and replace it with the requirement for recognized political parties to select a nominee.

*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 <http://www.kslegislature.org>

The fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, essentially reflects the testimony, *i.e.*, if the bill were not to be adopted there would be an additional cost of approximately \$1.8 million for the presidential preference primary election.