

SESSION OF 2017

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 78

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Ethics, Elections and Local Government

Brief*

SB 78 would amend law regarding notice of polling places. The bill would prohibit a county election officer from changing a polling place prior to an election without providing mailed notice at least 30 days prior to the election. The bill would authorize a waiver from this requirement if the county election officer declares an emergency.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government at the request of Senator Faust-Goudeau. In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Faust-Goudeau, along with former Representative Mah, the Office of Secretary of State Elections Director, and a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas, testified in favor of the bill. Proponents indicated there have been complaints and confusion regarding the changing of polling places, hence providing an obstacle to voter participation. The Elections Director also noted his opinion that failure to receive such a notice should not give rise to challenging election results.

No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the League of Kansas Municipalities indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on cities. The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the

*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>

bill could increase county expenditures, as they relate to the cost of printing and mailing notices, by an inestimable amount.