

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Bill Sutton, Chairperson  
House Committee on Elections  
Statehouse, Room 274C-W  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Sutton:

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Note for HB 2508 by House Committee on Elections

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2508 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2508 would amend existing law concerning the Office of the Secretary of State. On and after January 2, 2022, the Secretary of State would be elected on a non-partisan basis. The bill would require the Legislative Coordinating Council (LCC) to create a special committee to make recommendations to the 2021 Legislature regarding the changes in statute needed to implement this nonpartisan election. In addition, the bill would require any person who holds the Office of Secretary of State to resign that office prior to becoming a candidate for a partisan office.

According to the Secretary of State, enactment of HB 2508 could have a fiscal effect on agency operations depending on what process would be used to implement the provisions of the bill. Currently, there are no non-partisan races on the primary election ballot at the state level, and the agency indicates that a requirement for non-partisan ballots would result in additional expenditures. However, the agency is unable to estimate what those expenditures might amount to. It does expect that the costs would be long-term and that there would be additional costs for the county election offices, although it is unable to estimate what those costs might be.

The bill does not specify the number of members or the number of meetings that would be required for the special committee that must be created by the LCC. However, the LCC estimates that enactment of the bill could result in additional expenditures of approximately \$18,061 from the State General Fund. This amount assumes that the committee would consist of seven members of the Legislature who would meet four times before making recommendations and one committee assistant, who would be paid for the four meetings, as well as follow-up days to create minutes. Assuming existing salary and subsistence rates remain the same on July 1, 2020, as during the 2020 Legislative Session, the committee costs would be comprised of \$3,591 for salaries and

wages (legislator pay \$88.66/day X 7 X 4 + committee assistant pay \$1,108), \$4,228 for subsistence (\$151 X 7 X 4), \$4,025 for mileage (\$0.575 X 250 X 7 X 4), \$168 for tolls (\$6 X 7 X 4), \$4,228 for en route days (\$151 X 7 X 4) and \$1,821 for employer costs. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2508 is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that because the bill does not change the mechanism for elections, enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect on county election offices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. L. Campbell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Larry L. Campbell  
Director of the Budget

cc: Sandy Tompkins, Office of the Secretary of State