

SESSION OF 2019

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE
BILL NO. 130**

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

Brief*

Sub. for SB 130 would amend law concerning advance ballots and associated signature requirements.

The bill would require county election officers to make an attempt to contact each voter who submitted an advance voting ballot without a signature or with a signature that does not match the signature on file and allow the voter to correct the deficiency before the commencement of the final county canvass.

Background

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government at the request of Senator Faust-Goudeau.

During the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Faust-Goudeau, a representative for the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association, and the Sedgwick County Election Commissioner provided proponent testimony stating the bill would allow voters to correct deficiencies on advance voting ballots and would allow county election officials to count more votes.

Neutral testimony was provided by a representative of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners.

*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>

No opponent testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to include language requiring county election officers to make an attempt to contact (rather than contact) each voter and to specify the commencement of the final county canvass as the deadline for correcting signature deficiencies on advance voting ballots. At the request of the revisor, the Senate Committee also amended the bill to place the provisions into a different statute and voted to place the amended contents into a substitute bill.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of the Secretary of State (Office) indicates enactment of the bill would have a minor fiscal effect on the agency as training and educational materials would need to be updated or created to implement the new law. In addition, the law would need to be explained and publicized to ensure awareness and prevent confusion on the part of the voters. These expenditures could be managed within existing resources. The Office also indicates enactment of the bill, as introduced, could have a minor fiscal effect on Kansas counties depending on the size of the county and the number of voters that would need to be contacted to comply with the provisions of the bill, and the timing of the contact by the election office. Costs would vary by election and by county and would be an ongoing cost for every election. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill, as introduced, is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*. The Kansas Association of Counties reported there could be a fiscal effect on Kansas counties if county elections offices are required to mail out duplicate ballots, but the effect is not expected to be significant.