

House Elections Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB2090 which updates a 1941 Kansas law. This law allows for temporary replacements when an elected official gets military orders.

In 1941, the Kansas Legislature passed legislation and then Governor Payne Ratner signed the legislation into law to cover elected officials who serve in the military. The law is untouched from that time and currently has archaic statutory language and this bill would update the law to include all the uniformed services, the National Guard, reserves, and state employees. Additionally, this bill would tie in all the current appointment processes for when a vacancy occurs.

Having served in the military myself, I have seen the dedication of our men and women in the uniform service. I believe that all services should be recognized by Kansas law. According to the revisors office the branches currently covered by this law are the Army, Navy, and Marines. In 1941, the Air Force and Space Force did not exist. Our communities will greatly benefit from the participation of men and women who have chosen to wear the uniform of their country. I believe we have the opportunity to allow all members of the military to serve in public office from local school boards to our statewide offices.

Elected officials would fill out a form with the Secretary of State's office to initiate the process. Upon return of their service, they would fill out a form prescribed by the Secretary of State's office and be able to return to duty as an elected official, unless an election has happened since they left. The reason for the form is because if a city council member only meets once a month and the governor issues a three-week emergency declaration there is a chance that their deployment will not impact their elected office. I wanted to give as much flexibility as possible for those serving and allowing them to choose when they need a temporary replacement is the best option.

I respectfully ask this committee to support HB2090.

Sincerely,

PAT PROCTOR, PhD.
Colonel, US Army, Retired
State Representative
House District 41