

HOUSE BILL No. 2090

By Committee on Elections

1-21

1 AN ACT concerning elected officials; *requiring precinct committeemen*
2 *and committeewomen to report certain information to the county*
3 *clerk*; relating to military service; vacancy in elected office;
4 appointment of acting official; amending K.S.A. 73-213, 73-214, 73-
5 215, 73-218 and 73-219 and *K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 25-3801 and* repealing
6 the existing sections.
7

8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

9 *Section 1. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 25-3801 is hereby amended to read as*
10 *follows: 25-3801. (a) At each primary election, the members of the party*
11 *residing in each precinct in each county of the state shall elect a man of*
12 *their number as precinct committeeman and a woman of their number*
13 *as precinct committeewoman. No person shall be eligible to be a*
14 *candidate for or hold the office of precinct committeeman or precinct*
15 *committeewoman of a party in any precinct unless—such the person*
16 *actually lives, resides and occupies a place of abode in—such the precinct,*
17 *and is in all other respects a qualified elector and is shown as a member*
18 *of—such the party on the party affiliation list, in the office of the county*
19 *election officer. Except as provided in subsection (b), any vacancy*
20 *occurring in the office of precinct committeeman or committeewoman*
21 *shall be promptly filled by appointment by the county chairperson,*
22 *except that any vacancy which occurs because the party had no*
23 *candidate at—such the primary election shall not be filled until the county*
24 *central committee has elected or reelected its chairperson. Not later than*
25 *three days after appointment of precinct committeemen and*
26 *committeewomen, the county chairperson making the appointments*
27 *shall notify the county election officer of—such the appointments. The*
28 *county election officer shall make—such the appointments public*
29 *immediately upon receipt thereof. As used in this act, "primary election"*
30 *means the statewide election held in August of even-numbered years.*

31 *(b) When a convention is to be held under article 39 of chapter 25*
32 *of Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, to fill a vacancy,*
33 *no appointments shall be made under subsection (a): (1) After the*
34 *county chairperson has received notice from the county election officer*

1 *of a vacancy or a pending vacancy in a county elected office; or (2) after*
 2 *the county chairperson in each county, all or a part of which, is located*
 3 *within a legislative district has received notice from the secretary of state*
 4 *of a vacancy or a pending vacancy in a legislative office.*

5 *After the vacancy has been filled by a person elected at a convention*
 6 *held under article 39 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated,*
 7 *and amendments thereto, any vacancy in the office of precinct*
 8 *committeeman or committeewoman shall be filled as provided by*
 9 *subsection (a).*

10 (c) *All precinct committeemen, committeewomen and appointees*
 11 *shall report to the county election officer within three days after the*
 12 *election or appointment of such committeeman, committeewoman or*
 13 *appointee their address, phone number and, if available, such person's*
 14 *email address.*

15 ~~Section 1.~~ **Sec. 2.** K.S.A. 73-213 is hereby amended to read as
 16 follows: 73-213. For the purposes of this act, ~~the following terms shall~~
 17 ~~have the meanings ascribed to them by this section, unless the context~~
 18 clearly requires otherwise:

19 (a) ~~"Officer" means any officer or employee of the state of Kansas or~~
 20 ~~any political subdivision thereof."Act" means K.S.A. 73-213 through 73-~~
 21 ~~219, and amendments thereto.~~

22 (b) *"Appointive authority" means the person, board, commission or*
 23 *other authority vested by law with power to appoint a successor for an*
 24 *officer when a vacancy occurs in the office or position held by such officer.*
 25 *If no person, board, commission, or other authority is vested by law with*
 26 *power to appoint a successor for an officer when a vacancy occurs then*
 27 *"appointive authority" means the governor of the state of Kansas.*

28 (b)(c) ~~"Military service" means active service in the army, navy, or~~
 29 ~~marine corps, air force, coast guard, space force, Kansas army or air~~
 30 ~~national guard or any branch of the military reserves of the United States~~
 31 ~~or any compulsory service rendered in any capacity to the federal~~
 32 ~~government for the purpose of national defense.~~

33 (e)(d) ~~"Appointive authority" means the person, board, commission,~~
 34 ~~or other authority vested by law with power to appoint a successor for an~~
 35 ~~officer upon the happening of a vacancy in the office or position held by~~
 36 ~~such officer; but if no person, board, commission, or other authority is~~
 37 ~~vested by law with power to appoint a successor for an officer upon the~~
 38 ~~happening of such a vacancy, then "appointive authority" shall mean the~~
 39 ~~governor of the state of Kansas."Officer" means any officer or employee of~~
 40 ~~the state of Kansas or any political subdivision thereof.~~

41 (d)(e) *"Temporary vacancy" means a vacancy in an office or position*
 42 *caused by the absence in military service of the officer elected or*
 43 *appointed thereto. If the officer was originally elected or appointed for a*

1 definite term ~~such~~, "temporary vacancy" ~~shall mean~~ *means* the period of
2 time beginning with the day such officer ~~shall enter the~~ *enters* military
3 service and ending *either* with the day ~~he shall return~~ *such officer returns*
4 from military service; or with the expiration of the *appointed or elected*
5 term ~~for which he was elected or appointed~~, whichever period of time is
6 ~~the~~ shorter. If the officer was originally appointed to ~~his~~ *the* office or
7 position for an indefinite term or for a term expiring at the pleasure of the
8 appointive authority, such "temporary vacancy" ~~shall mean~~ *means* the
9 period of time beginning with the day such officer ~~shall enter the~~ *enters*
10 military service and ending *either* with the day ~~he~~ *such officer* shall return
11 from military service, or with the expiration of the appointive power of the
12 original appointive authority, whichever period of time is ~~the~~ shorter.

13 Sec. 2. 3. K.S.A. 73-214 is hereby amended to read as follows: 73-
14 214. The absence of any officer from ~~his~~ *an* office or position caused by
15 ~~his being in the~~ military service shall not create a forfeiture of; or vacancy
16 in the office or position to which such officer was elected or appointed but
17 shall be construed to ~~merely~~ create a temporary vacancy. Wherever the
18 terms "forfeiture of office" or "vacancy in office" or other words of ~~similar~~
19 ~~import~~ *like effect* are used in any law of this state in relation to an officer
20 such as defined in this act, ~~the same such terms or words~~ shall be
21 construed in accordance with the provisions of this section and shall not be
22 construed to apply to any absence of such officer who is absent from ~~his~~
23 *an* office or position by reason of ~~his being in the~~ military service.

24 Sec. 3. 4. K.S.A. 73-215 is hereby amended to read as follows: 73-
25 215. (a)(1) *If an officer's military service creates a temporary vacancy*
26 *that is determined by such officer to require a temporary appointment,*
27 *such officer shall submit an approved form to the designated office as set*
28 *out in paragraph (2).*

29 (2)(A) *If the officer is an elected state official, the form shall be*
30 *approved by and filed with the secretary of state.*

31 (B) **If the officer is an elected official of a political subdivision, the**
32 **form shall be filed with the county clerk of the county containing the**
33 **largest portion of the territory of the political subdivision.**

34 (C) *If the officer is an employee who is not an elected official, the*
35 *form shall be approved by and filed with the employee's human resources*
36 *department or other official as determined by such officer's employer.*

37 (3) *The officer shall also submit an approved form to the designated*
38 *office upon return from military service.*

39 (b) ~~In case~~ *If an officer's military service creates a temporary vacancy*
40 *is or has been created in any office or position by reason of the absence of*
41 ~~the officer in the military service,~~ *in an office or position and the form*
42 *prescribed in (a) has been filed:*

43 (1) *The appointive authority for ~~the~~ a partisan elective office shall*

1 *appoint a person to temporarily fill such office or position using the*
2 *procedures in K.S.A. 25-3901 et seq., and amendments there to; and*

3 (2) The appointive authority ~~shall for the~~ **an elective office that is**
4 **nonpartisan and for an** *employee who is not an elected official may*
5 *appoint some a person to temporarily fill the such office or position to*
6 *which such officer was elected or appointed.*

7 (c) All such appointees shall hold the office or position ~~which they~~
8 ~~are temporarily to fill during the such~~ temporary vacancy ~~caused by the~~
9 ~~absence of the officer in the military service.~~

10 Sec. ~~4~~ **5.** K.S.A. 73-218 is hereby amended to read as follows: 73-
11 218. An officer who ~~shall be~~ *is* absent from ~~his an~~ office or position ~~and~~
12 while in ~~the~~ military service shall not be entitled to any compensation as
13 such officer during such absence; ~~but upon his return.~~ *If he return the*
14 *officer returns* before the expiration of the period of the temporary vacancy
15 created by ~~his the officer's~~ absence, ~~he such officer~~ shall be entitled to
16 immediate possession of ~~the such~~ office or position ~~from which he was~~
17 ~~absent~~ and, upon reassuming the duties of the office, to receive the
18 compensation for the remainder of the term to which the holder thereof is
19 entitled, subject to removal from office according to law.

20 Sec. ~~5~~ **6.** K.S.A. 73-219 is hereby amended to read as follows: 73-
21 219. ~~The provisions of this act are declared to be severable and if any~~
22 ~~section, subsection, paragraph, be unconstitutional or provision of this act~~
23 ~~or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any~~
24 ~~reason, it shall be presumed that this act would have been passed by the~~
25 ~~legislature without such invalid section, subsection, paragraph, sentence,~~
26 ~~provision, clause or phrase, and such decision shall not in any way affect~~
27 ~~the remainder of such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or~~
28 ~~applications of this act.~~

29 Sec. ~~6~~ **7.** K.S.A. 73-213, 73-214, 73-215, 73-218 and 73-219 **and**
30 **K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 25-3801** are hereby repealed.

31 Sec. ~~7~~ **8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
32 publication in the statute book.

33