

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2504

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2504, as amended, would require that paper ballots be used for the purposes of conducting post-election audits and prohibit the use of corresponding ballot images. The bill would also require a physical random method to be used in the random selection of precincts and offices involved in post-election audits.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of Representative Waggoner.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, written-only proponent testimony was provided by five private citizens.

Neutral testimony was provided by representatives of the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association, Loud Light Civic Action, and Office of the Secretary of State. The representatives discussed concerns about the impact on county resources needed for conducting post-election audits using paper ballots.

No other testimony was provided.

*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>

The House Committee amended the bill to require the random selection of precincts and offices involved in a post-election audit to use a physical random method. Continuing law does not require a specific method for random selection.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Office of the Secretary of State indicates it would use existing resources to provide and update manuals for county election officials; update the agency's website; update public documents and information; and work with media, political parties, candidates, and the public to ensure knowledge of the change to election audits contained in the bill. Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates that using a paper process instead of the current automated process for auditing ballots would require more staff time and resources in the county election offices across the state but is unable to estimate the effect.

Elections; election audits; paper ballots