

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 131

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Elections and Local Government

Brief*

SB 131 would establish a deadline for the appointment of authorized poll agents and the notification of such. The bill would set this deadline to be no later than noon on either (a) the second business day preceding the election or (b) the second business day preceding the opening of an advance voting site. The bill, commensurately, would require the written appointment to be filed with the county election officer, and clarify that a copy of the appointment is to be carried with the poll agent while on duty.

Background

Current law (KSA 25-3005a) allows a number of individuals to serve as authorized poll agents by virtue of their office or status as a candidate. These individuals include county and state party committee chairpersons, chairpersons of committees concerned with "question-submitted" (issue) elections, and candidates, including write-in candidates who have filed an affidavit of write-in. The law requires any other person, appointed by one of the above individuals to be an authorized poll agent, to be named in writing by the person making the appointment. The appointed poll agent is required to carry the written appointment at all times he or she is serving as poll agent.

A representative of the Secretary of State's Office testified in favor of SB 131. No opponents testified.

The Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government amended the bill to clarify that the appointment and notification of poll agents are to occur on the second business day preceding the election, as opposed to the Friday preceding the election. The amendment added the same deadline and notification requirement with respect to the opening of an advance voting site.

According to the fiscal note, passage of SB 131 would have no fiscal effect.

*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>