

SESSION OF 2007

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 283

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Elections and Local Government

Brief*

SB 283 would change current law regarding poll workers and election boards. The bill would provide that a county election officer would allocate staffing resources. Poll workers could be utilized for partial shifts and not be required to work the entire time the polls are open; however, at least two workers, including the supervising judge, would need to be on duty the entire time the polls are open. Those workers on duty at the time the polls close would need to certify the ballots at that polling place.

The Secretary of State would be authorized to adopt rules and regulations for the implementation of this bill.

Background

Under current law, those persons working a voting place as a poll worker must be on duty for the entire day. Testimony was provided that this has contributed to difficulty of county election officers in securing adequate poll workers, since many people who would be willing to serve these positions cannot do so for day-long shifts that could be 12 to 14 hours. At least two members of the election board at each voting place would be required to be there for the entire day, but other workers could be assigned partial day shifts.

The Senate Elections and Local Government Committee amended the bill to clarify that only those poll workers working at the end of the day would need to certify the election results.

*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>

Proponents of the bill included Senator Marci Francisco and representatives of the League of Women Voters and the Secretary of State's Office. Testimony also was provided from several county clerks, who offered support of the bill. There were no opponents to the bill.

The fiscal note indicated local governments could see increase costs to train more poll workers, but an estimate of costs is unknown.