

SESSION OF 2008

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2973

As Amended by House Committee on
Elections and Governmental Organization

Brief*

HB 2973 would revise current requirements regarding when a primary election may be held for school district boards, city officers, and community college district boards. For all three types of entities:

- A primary election would be prohibited:
 - Unless, by holding the primary, two or more persons will be eliminated as candidates for office.
 - If there are not more than three times the number of candidates as there are officers or board members to be elected. If there are not more than three times the number of candidates, the candidates' names would be required to appear on the general election ballot.
- A primary election must be held if needed to reduce the number of candidates for each office in the general election to no more than three candidates.

With respect to school district and community college district boards, the bill would delete the current language requiring the entities to hold primary elections under certain circumstances, which differ depending on whether the district elects members from member districts or at large. Regarding city officer elections, the bill would revise the number of candidates that must be eliminated and the total number of candidates existing in order to hold a primary election.

*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>

Background

A representative of the Office of the Secretary of State and two county election officers testified in favor of the bill, stating the bill would result in cost savings at the local level.

The House Committee amended the bill to require a primary election be held if needed to reduce the number of candidates in the general election to no more than three candidates.

According to the fiscal note, passage of the bill would have no fiscal effect on the state budget but would affect Kansas cities and counties because it would allow them to hold fewer primary elections, thereby reducing election costs.