

SESSION OF 2009

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 38

As Amended by Senate Committee on
Ethics and Elections

Brief*

SB 38 would provide two options for holding an election to establish a hospital district in Linn County's Mound City and Paris townships. It also would set requirements for any hospital board established.

The bill would require the Board of County Commissioners to call for an election if at least 10 percent of the two townships' qualified electors sign and file a petition requesting the formation of a hospital district. Alternatively, it would allow the Board of County Commissioners to submit the proposition to the two townships' voters on the Board's own motion.

If the hospital district is approved by a majority of those voting in such an election, the Board would then establish the hospital district and establish the original hospital district board, as provided for in law, which includes holding a public meeting for the purpose of electing the first board.

The bill would permit the hospital board, once established, to levy an annual tax of not more than two mills for operating, equipping, maintaining and improving the hospital. It would permit the hospital board to exceed the two-mill limitation if (a) the hospital board adopts a resolution to increase the levy above two mills; and (b) no petition in opposition of the increase, signed by at least five percent of the qualified voters, is filed as required by law. If such a petition is filed an election must be held, and only if a majority of those voting approve of the increase would the increase be permitted.

*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

Senator Pat Apple testified in favor of the bill. No opponents testified.

The Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections amended the bill to include allowing the Linn County Board of County Commissioners to submit the hospital district petition to the two townships' voters.

The fiscal note indicates that passage of the bill would result in a fiscal effect on the Mound City and Paris townships for the election, if a petition to form a hospital district were to be submitted and an election held. Further, if the voters approved the hospital district the two townships' residents would be subject to a tax increase. The fiscal note indicates it is not possible to predict the total cost of any such hospital district initiative.