

February 5, 2024

The Honorable Pat Proctor, Chairperson
House Committee on Elections
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 218-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Proctor:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2571 by House Committee on Elections

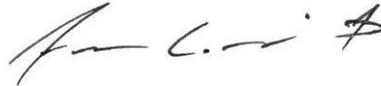
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2571 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2571 would require all advance voting ballots deposited in a remote ballot box to be considered provisional ballots until verified by the county election office. The ballot would not be counted unless the county election officer verifies that the voter whose name appears on the envelope has deposited such ballot or that the ballot was deposited by the voter's designee. The bill would also define "remote ballot boxes" as any form of locked ballot boxes available for the use of depositing advance voting ballots that are not located in a county election office or satellite advance voting site. If the vote of an advance voting voter is challenged and a judge of the special election board determines the ballot was deposited in a remote ballot box, the ballot envelope would not be opened.

The Secretary of State would use existing resources to provide training 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 new changes for designation of advance voting ballots deposited in a remote ballot box under provisions of HB 2571. In addition, the agency provides that enactment of HB 2571 would either force counties to discontinue the use of remote ballot drop boxes that are currently used or continue the use of remote ballot drop boxes and hire additional staff to make an additional review to process ballots that are marked provisional that are received from remote ballot drop box. The agency does not have information on which choice each county would choose nor is the agency able to calculate the fiscal effect on the counties. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2571 is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties states that under HB 2571, there could be increased costs to the counties associated with contacting all voters using remote ballot boxes to verify that the voter or the voter's designee deposited the ballot in the ballot box. The cost would vary by county and therefore a precise fiscal effect cannot be estimated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam C. Proffitt" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Jay Hall, Kansas Association of Counties
Sandy Tompkins, Office of the Secretary of State