



STATE OF KANSAS

March 3, 2025

Testimony on HB2022 (Oral Proponent)

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Submitted: Thursday, February 27, 2025

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee:

The Secretary of State introduced HB2022 to clarify a provision in the 2023 election bill SB22, added to KSA 25-2502.

(c) "Special election" means any election that is not a general or primary election, including, but not limited to, any mail ballot election conducted pursuant to K.S.A. 25-431 et seq., and amendments thereto. A special election shall not be held within 45 days of a general or primary election but may be held on the same day as a general or primary election.

The 45-day provision was intended to mean 45 days before and after a general or primary election, but, on occasion, has been interpreted to mean only 45 days before. This bill clarifies the meaning. The need for the 45-day buffer zone before and after an election prevents problems inherent in running two elections whose timelines overlap.

It ensures a county election officer is not faced with a conflict between state and federal law regarding the time registration books may be closed.

It allows county election officers to focus their effort on the regularly scheduled primary and general election with the attendant sub-tasks such as mailing military ballots, setting up polling places, advance voting, election day voting, provisional ballot work, county canvass, and then updating the voter rolls. Additionally, in August and September, county clerks are deeply involved in the revenue neutral rate process.

Clarifying the 45-day period would result in a 6-month period from mid-June to mid-December where there would be no special elections, unless the special election was held on the same day as the general or primary election.

Respectfully,

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