

SESSION OF 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2016

As Amended by Senate Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

HB 2016, as amended, would require a county election officer to remove the name of a registered voter from the registration books and party affiliation lists when an obituary for such voter is published online by a funeral home located in the county.

[*Note:* Continuing law requires a county election officer to remove a registered voter from the registration books and party affiliation lists when an obituary notice reporting the death of such voter appears in a newspaper having general circulation in the county.]

The bill would be in effect upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of Representative Waggoner.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by representatives of the Office of the Secretary of State and the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association. The proponents generally stated the bill would

*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 <https://klrd.gov/>

allow county election officers to use multiple sources to confirm the death of a registered voter and ensure that voter registration rolls are up-to-date.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by two private citizens.

Written-only opponent testimony was provided by a representative of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas.

No other testimony was provided.

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the Senate Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Office of the Secretary of State, who stated that because obituaries are appearing less in newspapers and more online, the bill would fill in gaps by allowing county election officers to use multiple sources to confirm the death of a registered voter and maintain voter registration rolls.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by three private citizens.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to change the effective date to upon publication in the *Kansas Register*.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Secretary of State indicates it would use existing resources to update training materials for local election officials and update educational

and promotional materials for the public regarding the provisions of the bill.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the bill would have a fiscal effect associated with investigating the legitimacy of private obituaries, which would increase the election officers' workload.

Any fiscal effect associated with the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2026 Governor's Budget Report*.

Elections; voter registration; voter registration rolls; party affiliation lists