

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Bowers, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government
Statehouse, Room 223-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Bowers:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 264 by Senator Faust-Goudeau

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 264 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Current law requires that an advance voting ballot cannot be transmitted by mail unless a county election official is able to verify that the signature of the person making application for the ballot matches the signature in the county voter registration records. SB 264 would exclude the requirement for signature verification if the voter has a disability preventing him or her from signing. Current law also exempts any voter who has an illness, physical disability, or who is not proficient in reading the English language from requirements regarding applying, marking, signing or transmitting an advance voting ballot, an application for an advance voting ballot, or a statement requesting or verifying assistance in voting. SB 264 would include in these exemptions any voter who has a disability preventing him or her from writing or signing such documents.

Although enactment of SB 264 would require modification of existing ballot applications, ballot envelopes, training guides and manuals, the Secretary of State indicates that these changes could be made from within existing resources. The Secretary reports that enactment of the bill could have a fiscal effect on county election offices which might need to submit replacement orders if advance ballot envelopes and applications had already been ordered. No estimates of such re-orders are available, however.

Sincerely,



Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Linda Borrer, Office of the Secretary of State