

SESSION OF 2019

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 7

As Amended by Senate Committee on Ethics,
Elections and Local Government

Brief*

SB 7, as amended, would amend law regarding the timing of appointing a replacement school board member, timing of elections of officers of a local board of education, the date local school district board officials take office, and the timing of an election to change the method of election or voting plan of school board members.

The bill would remove language requiring local school board officials who are replacing members of the board to be appointed by November 15.

The bill would require the first meeting of the Board of Education (Board) be on or after the second Monday in January or at a later meeting during the calendar year if so determined by the Board at the first meeting, rather than in July.

Under the bill, the Board would adopt a resolution specifying the regular meeting time, the regular hour for the meeting to begin, the day of the week, and the week of the month on or after the second Monday in January and before February 1, or at a later date during the calendar year if so determined by the Board, instead of during the month of July.

The bill would remove the requirement that school districts make changes in the method of elections or voting plans, or both, during the period beginning on the first Wednesday in November of each even-numbered year and

*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>

ending on the first Tuesday in June of each odd-numbered year and would require a change in the method of elections or voting plan, or both, to be submitted to voters at any primary or general election, or at a special election called for that purpose.

The bill would also make technical changes.

Background

The bill was introduced in the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government at the request of Senator Hawk.

In the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Hawk, a member of the Board of Education of Manhattan-Ogden USD 383, a representative of the Shawnee Mission School District School Board, and a representative of the Wichita USD 259 provided proponent testimony. Proponents stated the bill would correct unintended consequences of legislation that moved city commission and school board elections from April of odd-numbered years to November of even-numbered years. Proponents also stated the bill would provide flexibility to school boards to decide when to hold internal leadership elections and meetings.

The representative of the Wichita USD 259 proposed an amendment removing the requirement that school districts must make changes in the method of elections or voting plans, or both, during the period beginning on the first Wednesday in November of each even-numbered year and ending on the first Tuesday in June of each odd-numbered year and inserting language requiring a change in the method of elections or voting plan, or both, be submitted to voters at any primary or general election or at a special election called for that purpose.

The President of the Kansas Association of School Boards presented neutral testimony due to varying responses from local boards.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to remove the requirement that school districts must make changes in the method of elections or voting plans, or both, during the period beginning on the first Wednesday in November of even-numbered years and ending on the first Tuesday in June of each odd-numbered year and to insert language requiring a change in the method of elections or voting plan, or both, be submitted to voters at any primary or general election or at a special election called for that purpose.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Department of Education indicates enactment of the bill would have no fiscal effect.