

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Larry Alley, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Statehouse, Room 136-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Alley:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 94 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

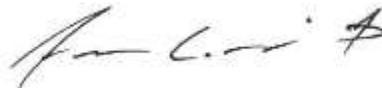
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 94 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 94 would amend existing law relating to voting systems and procedures to require that all voting systems used for elections must use an individual, durable, voter-verified, paper ballot of the voter's vote which would be considered the official ballot and would be considered the true and correct record of votes cast. The bill would establish the requirements for how the ballot must be marked, corrected, preserved, counted, made available to the voter, and canvassed. The bill would require a sample hand-counted audit of the paper ballots to be conducted in each precinct at the polling place after the close the polls. The results must be reported to the county election officer, the canvassing board and the Secretary of State. Poll books not requiring a hand-written signature would be prohibited. The bill would take effect upon publication in the statute book.

According to the Secretary of State, enactment of SB 94 would require significant policy changes. The agency indicates it would use existing resources and personnel to update policies, training documents, and educational materials provided to county election officers and the general public. The agency reports that there would be additional costs for Kansas counties that would need to replace existing voting machines; however, fewer than ten counties would need to do so. SB 94 would require that these purchases be completed by January 1, 2022, and the cost would be between \$20,000 and \$300,000 per county, depending on the size of the county and the number of machines that would need to be purchased. In addition, counties would be required to conduct hand-counted manual audits of each precinct. This would require each county to hire and train a new bi-partisan board to conduct the audit, which could result in additional costs ranging from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars per county.

According to the Kansas Association of Counties, most counties in Kansas already have these machines in place. Others are in the process of replacing machines that do not comply but may not have those machines in place prior to January 1, 2022. Enactment of SB 94 could result in additional costs to counties that do not have compliant machines if they have not budgeted to replace the equipment in 2022.

Sincerely,

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

Adam Proffitt
Director of the Budget

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