



Date of Testimony: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Bill Number: HB 2618: Requiring specific intent as an element of the crime of false representation of an election official.

Disposition: Neutral; Written Testimony

From: Cille King, Advocacy Chair; League of Women Voters Kansas

To: Chair Senator Thompson and Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

The League of Women Voters of Kansas is neutral on HB 2618 as it only partially addresses the issues of the 2021 legislation in HB 2183, regarding impersonating an election official.

We appreciate that this bill removes the clause “conduct that gives the appearance of being an election official” and requires “intent to cause a person to believe that the person engaging in such conduct is an election official”.

However, one concern is that we do not know which actions might be considered as impersonating an election official. To name another concern, in K.S.A. 21-5917 (c)(1), false impersonation is a class B nonperson misdemeanor, however, in 2021 HB 2183, impersonating an election official is a level 7, nonperson felony and eliminate the option of a misdemeanor crime that is an option in K.S.A. 21-5917.

If the Attorney General wished to remove the offensive and vague language from the 2021 bill to settle the lawsuit, he might have done it earlier during these last two years instead of waiting until the week before the Kansas Supreme Court was to hear the case.

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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