

January 23, 2024

The Honorable Mike Thompson, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 144-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Thompson:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 343 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 343 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

Currently, individuals and organizations are allowed to mail to voters an application for an advance voting ballot. SB 343 would prohibit such mailings except by a county election official and the voter to whom the application is to be sent has requested such application. No portion of the application is to be filled out prior to its mailing. Any violations would be a class C misdemeanor.

In addition, current law requires solicitations by mail to a voter to file an application for advance voting ballot to have an exterior label in 14-point font or larger. SB 343 would change the size of the font to 12-point or larger.

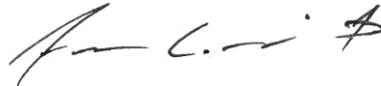
The Secretary of State would use existing resources to provide training and update manuals for county election officials; update the agency's website; update public documents and information; and work with media, political parties, candidates, and the public to ensure knowledge of the new prohibition on mailing advance ballot applications as contained in SB 343. The agency also indicates SB 343 would have a fiscal effect on county election office budgets. The offices would need additional workers to process the increase in the volume of calls requesting applications, forms, postage, and printing costs. Depending on the election, costs could range from a few hundred dollars to thousands of dollars per election, per county.

The Kansas Judicial Branch indicates SB 343 could increase the number of cases filed in the district courts because the bill limits who is allowed to mail official advanced voting ballot applications. These provisions of the bill would increase time spent by district court judicial and nonjudicial personnel in processing, researching, and hearing cases. Since this crime carries a misdemeanor penalty, there could also be additional supervision of offenders by court services officers. The enactment of the bill could increase the collection of docket fees, fines, and

supervision fees that would be deposited into the State General Fund. The agency indicates that it is unable to estimate a fiscal effect. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 343 is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates SB 343 would have a fiscal effect on Kansas counties; however, the Association is unable to estimate the fiscal effect.

Sincerely,

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

Adam C. Proffitt
Director of the Budget

cc: Jay Hall, Kansas Association of Counties
Trisha Morrow, Judiciary
Sandy Tompkins, Office of the Secretary of State