

February 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 344 by Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 344 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 344 would require voter verification of identity when transmitting advance voting ballots to the county election office. Voter identity verification would include the voter's name, date of birth, government-issued photo identification number, and expiration date. The bill would also require county election officials to transmit a voter's application for an advance voting ballot within two business days of receipt of the application or the commencement of a 20-day period before the election. SB 344 would require an advance voting ballot envelope transmitted to the voter to include a voter identification form. The envelope would have the same number as the number of the ballot.

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 updated requirement concerning voter registration address verification contained in SB 344. The agency also indicates SB 344 would have a fiscal effect on county election office budgets. The offices would be required to verify each advance voting ballot. Offices would also most likely need to hire additional staff as a result of the influx of voter registration applications at the deadline to register to vote 21 days prior to election day and the beginning of advance voting the next day. These deadlines coincide with the offices busiest time of the year. The agency estimates costs to the offices would range from \$2,000 to \$20,000 per county. Any fiscal effect associated with SB 344 is not reflected in *The FY 2025 Governor's Budget Report*.

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates SB 344 could have a fiscal effect on the counties if the election offices are required to have a staff person at remote drop box locations to check the identification of individuals utilizing the drop boxes or limit voter access by preventing the use of remote drop box locations. 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
Sandy Tompkins, Office of the Secretary of State