

SESSION OF 2024

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2616

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

Brief*

HB 2616, as amended, would prohibit the Secretary of State or a county election officer from disqualifying a U.S. citizen from serving as a poll worker at any election on the basis of residency or registered voter status if the individual is:

- An active military member;
- An active military member's spouse or other dependent; or
- A full-time student at any public or private postsecondary educational institution in Kansas.

The bill would specify its provisions could not be construed to limit or otherwise restrict any poll worker qualifications based on the age of the individual.

For these purposes, the bill would define "active military member" as any person with full-time duty status in the U.S. Armed Forces, including members of the National Guard and Reserve. The bill would define "postsecondary educational institution" as in the Kansas Higher Education Coordination Act: any public or municipal university or any community or technical college.

*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>

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of a private citizen.

House Committee on Elections

In the House Committee hearing, a private citizen provided **proponent** testimony, noting needs for additional poll workers, stated the bill would offer military family members to contribute to their local communities even if registered to vote elsewhere and would offer postsecondary students an opportunity for civic engagement. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by three private citizens.

A representative of the Office of the Secretary of State provided neutral written-only testimony, which included clarity concerns regarding issues of citizenship and political affiliation.

The House Committee amended the bill to require U.S. citizenship for military-related or postsecondary students serving as poll workers.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, as introduced, the Secretary of State indicates enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect on agency operations, and the Kansas Association of Counties indicates its enactment would not have a fiscal effect on the counties.

Poll worker; election; military; postsecondary student; Secretary of State