

SESSION OF 2019

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 129**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Ethics, Elections and Local Government

**Brief\***

SB 129 would amend law concerning polling locations.

The bill would allow, at the discretion of the county election officer, all voters in a county to vote at any polling location on election day, so long as all rules and regulations established by the Secretary of State (Secretary) are followed.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government at the request of Senator Faust-Goudeau.

During the Senate Committee hearing, Senator Faust-Goudeau, the Sedgwick County Election Commissioner, and a representative of the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners provided proponent testimony, stating the bill would reduce the number of provisional ballots and make voting more convenient for voters.

No neutral or opponent testimony was provided.

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget, the Secretary indicates enactment of the bill would have a minor effect as that office would need to update and create new training and educational materials to

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\*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>

implement the provisions of the new law. In addition, the law would need to be explained and publicized to ensure voter awareness and prevent confusion. While some of the costs may be absorbed into existing resources, the Secretary indicates the public education campaign is not currently in the Secretary's budget but does not provide an estimate of those costs. Any fiscal effect associated with enactment of the bill is not reflected in *The FY 2020 Governor's Budget Report*.

According to the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), enactment of the bill could cause significant costs to Kansas counties with regard to the administrative and technical costs of overseeing an election. However, the KAC is unable to estimate those costs.