

STATE OF KANSAS



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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

REGARDING VETO OF HOUSE BILL 2252

Elected officials must be able to perform their job duties effectively and efficiently. By prohibiting executive branch officers, including the Governor, Secretary of State, and Attorney General, from entering into agreements regarding the enforcement of election law, this bill prevents the executive branch from fulfilling its constitutional duties. House Bill 2252 represents an overreach by the legislative branch that defies the separation of powers – a principle fundamental to a working democracy. If passed, it would also lead to costly litigation at the expense of Kansas taxpayers.

Therefore, under Article 2, Section 14(a) of the Constitution, I hereby veto House Bill 2252.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

BY THE GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Kelly", written over a horizontal line.

DATED

A handwritten date in blue ink, "May 13, 2022", written over a horizontal line.

Senate Substitute for HOUSE BILL No. 2252

AN ACT concerning elections; prohibiting the modification of election laws by agreement except as approved by the legislature; amending K.S.A. 25-125 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 25-125 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-125. (a) The governor shall not have any authority to modify election laws or procedures by issuance of an executive order.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c), neither the executive branch nor the judicial branch of state government shall have any authority to modify the state election laws.

(c) *Neither the governor; the secretary of state nor any other officer in the executive branch shall not enter into any consent decree or other agreement with any state or federal court or any agreement with any other party regarding the enforcement of any election law or the alteration of any election procedure without specific approval of such consent decree or other agreement by the legislature or the legislative coordinating council if the legislature is not in session at the time such agreement is submitted for approval.*

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or otherwise restrict the judicial branch of state government in the exercise of any powers granted by article 3 of the constitution of the state of Kansas.

(e) If any provision of this section or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or applications of the section that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and, to this end, the provisions of this section are severable.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-125 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

HOUSE adopted
Conference Committee Report_____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE
as amended _____

SENATE adopted
Conference Committee Report_____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.