

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pat Proctor at 3:30 pm on Thursday, January 25, 2024, in room 218-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Chris Croft – Excused

Representative Brandon Woodard – Excused

Substitute members:

Representative Vic Miller, appointed substitute member to the committee

Committee staff present:

Cheryl Dew, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Elaina Rudder, Legislative Research Department

Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department

Jillian Block, Legislative Research Department

Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Clay Barker, Deputy Secretary of State, General Council

Rick Piepho, Master Certified County Clerk & Election Officer, Harvey County

Cille King, League of Women Voters

Davis Hammet, Loud Light Civic Action

Others in attendance:

No list available

### **Request for bill introductions**

Chairperson Proctor called for any requests for bill introductions.

Representative Sydney Carlin requested the introduction of 24RS2320 which would add conflict of interest to Legislatures in regards to prohibiting members of Legislature from voting on matters in which they have a special interest.

Kim Borchers, Kansas Citizen requested the introduction of 24RS2527 which pertains to carving out qualifications for poll workers.

Dan Burrows, Chief Deputy Attorney General requested introduction of 24RS2679 which would amend KSA25-2438 which is the impersonating an election official statute to fix issues that have come up in recent litigation.

Clay Barker, Deputy Secretary of State, General Council requested introduction of:

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- 24RS2560 which relates to corporate filings.
- 24RS2585 which concerns the publication of regulations.
- 24RS2589 which cleans up minor problems with the 5 year regulation review.

The bills were accepted for introduction with no objections.

**Hearing on: HB2512 — Requiring advance voting ballots cast in person to be received by the county election office by 7:00 p.m. on the second day preceding the election.**

Chairperson Proctor opened the hearing on **HB2512** and recognized Assistant Revisor, Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes who presented overview of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#)).

There were no proponents of **HB2512**.

Neutral for **HB2512** included:

Clay Barker, Deputy Secretary of State, gave testimony noting the change could cause confusion with those voters who routinely vote on the Monday before election day and were not aware of the change. ([Attachment 2](#))

Rick Piepho, Master Certified County Clerk & Election Officer, Harvey County, gave testimony noting his office was neutral on the subject but that county election clerks would appreciate having a reduced work load the Monday before election as it is already an extremely busy day with deliveries and preparing final poll books for election day. ([Attachment 3](#)).

From the audience, Chairperson Proctor recognized Bryan Caskey, Director of Elections, Secretary of State, who responded to questions by committee members and confirmed under current law, someone who is unable to vote after the proposed 7pm deadline would only be able to vote with a provisional ballot that would not end up counting.

Written only neutral testimony for **HB2512** included:

Brett Anderson, We The People ([Attachment 4](#))

Opponents for **HB2512** included:

Cille King, League of Women Voters Kansas, was opposed as it reduces the number of days required for early voting . ([Attachment 5](#))

Davis Hammet, Loud Light Civic Action, voiced his concerns regarding reducing mandatory hours of early voting and the confusing language that seems to conflict with other statutes. ([Attachment 6](#))

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Written-only opponents for **HB2512** included:

Mel Neal, Campaign Legal Center ([Attachment 7](#))

Rashane Hamby, Director of Policy and Research, American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas ([Attachment 8](#))

Nathan Madden, Ph.D. Health Forward Foundation ([Attachment 9](#))

Chairperson Proctor closed the hearing on **HB2512**.

**Hearing on: HB2516 — Raising the number of signatures required for nomination petitions for independent candidates for statewide office and eliminating the option for such candidates to pay a filing fee in lieu of such petitions.**

Chairperson Proctor opened the hearing on **HB2516** and recognized Assistant Revisor, Mike Heim, Office of Revisor of Statutes who presented overview of the bill. ([Attachment 10](#)).

Adam Proffitt, Director of the Budget reviewed the fiscal note.

Written-only proponents for **HB2516** included:

Representative Les Mason ([Attachment 11](#))

Neutral for **HB2516** included:

Clay Barker, Deputy Secretary of State, voiced concern with increasing the minimum signature threshold to 25,000 and giving the election staff enough time to verify signatures and that any voter who signs an independent candidate petition may not vote in corresponding party primary which is difficult to enforce. ([Attachment 12](#))

Opponents for **HB2516** included:

Davis Hammet, Loud Light Civic Action, opposed the bill as it consolidates political party power and creates unnecessary burdens on the pursuit of public service for Kansans who reject party affiliation. ([Attachment 13](#))

Written-only opponents for **HB2516** included:

Matt Clark, Libertarian Party of Kansas ([Attachment 14](#))

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Kari Sue Vosburgh, Kansas Citizen ([Attachment 15](#))

Brett Anderson, We The People Kansas ([Attachment 16](#))

Missy Leavitt, Kansas Citizen - testimony received after hearing ([Attachment 17](#))

From the audience, Chairperson Proctor recognized Bryan Caskey, Director of Elections, Secretary of State, who answered questions from the committee members.

Chairperson Proctor closed the hearing on **HB2516**.

Announcements: Next Tuesday, discussion and action on paper ballot auditing and will be hearing **HB2517** and **HB2511**; Thursday we will be having hearing on **HB2559** and **HB2576**.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.