

SESSION OF 2024

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 524**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on  
Ways and Means

**Brief\***

SB 524 would authorize mail ballot elections for certain irrigation district boards of directors. The bill would allow boards with irrigation districts of more than 35,000 acres to conduct member elections by mail ballot. The board would be required to adopt a procedure for the election by mail ballot in any even-numbered or odd-numbered year. The board would also be required to adopt a resolution providing for the election of members by mail ballot, and specify the term for each member. Terms for members could be a period of two, three, or four years.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at the request of Senator Billinger.

***Senate Committee on Ways and Means***

In the Senate Committee hearing on March 14, 2024, **proponent** testimony was provided by Senator Bowers and an attorney representing Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2. Proponents stated that the bill was requested on behalf of the irrigation district because current statute does not provide for workable elections for irrigation districts. Proponents noted that law enacted in 2015 moved all local elections from spring to fall, which created inconsistencies in

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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>

other statutes. Proponents further stated that the bill would better clarify election processes for irrigation districts.

No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee recommended the bill be placed on the Consent Calendar.

### **Fiscal Information**

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Department of Agriculture and the Kansas Water Office indicate enactment of the bill would not have a fiscal effect

The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of the bill could create some cost savings for counties by utilizing mail ballots as opposed to in-person voting; however, the cost savings would depend on the number of elections and likely be negligible.

Irrigation districts; elections; board of directors; term period