

SESSION OF 2013

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 64**

As Amended by House Committee on Elections

**Brief\***

House Sub. for SB 64 would add to and amend statutes concerning municipal elections. The bill would move all municipal elections for cities, boards of public utilities, extension districts, water districts, drainage districts, irrigation districts, unified school districts, and community colleges from the spring of odd-numbered years to the fall of odd-numbered years, beginning January 1, 2014. Primary elections would be held on the first Tuesday in August and general elections would be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.

The bill would specify the dates terms would commence, the amount of time elected members would hold office, and when applications for advanced ballots must be filed. The bill would change statutes related to the date and timing of elections for the various entities, the filing of candidate declarations, and publication requirements so the requirements would be uniform with the requirements of other fall elections.

The bill would require the county election officer to prepare official primary election ballots for the municipal elections held in the fall of odd-numbered years and to allow the Secretary of State to provide technical assistance. The Secretary of State would be allowed to adopt rules and regulations to ensure orderly primary elections in both even and odd numbered years.

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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>

Under the bill, all existing ordinances and charter ordinances relating to a city's form of government, except those relating to the timing of city primary and general elections, would remain in effect until amended or repealed by the city.

## **Background**

The House Committee on Elections deleted the contents of SB 64 as amended by the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government and replaced them with the contents of HB 2227 as amended by the House Committee.

At the hearing on HB 2227 in the House Committee on Elections, a representative from the Secretary of State's Office appeared as a proponent. Written testimony in support of the bill was submitted by the Kansas Republican Party and the Cowley County Clerk's Office. Opponents included representatives from The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Wichita Public Schools. Written testimony opposing the bill was submitted by Trego County USD 208, the League of Kansas Municipalities, the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, the City of Derby, the City of Neodesha, Water One Johnson County, and Labette County. Neutral testimony on the bill included written testimony by the Crawford County Clerk's Office.

The House Committee amended the House bill by adopting technical amendments.

According to the fiscal note on HB 2227, the Secretary of State's Office has indicated that the costs associated with training county election offices associated with passage of the bill could be absorbed within existing resources. The Office also indicates that any fiscal effect from the bill on county election offices would be negligible.