

HOUSE BILL No. 2558

AN ACT concerning elections; amending K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 25-21a01 and 80-2508 and repealing the existing sections.

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

New Section 1. No city or county shall regulate or prohibit canvassing, polling, soliciting or otherwise approaching private residences for the purpose of distributing campaign literature or campaigning for a candidate for an elected office.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 25-21a01 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-21a01. (a) On and after January 1, 2017, all primary elections for members of the governing body and other elected officials of any municipality shall be held on the first Tuesday in August of 2017 and on such date thereafter of odd-numbered years, and all general elections for members of the governing body and other elected officials of any municipality shall be held on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November of 2017 of odd-numbered years and on such date thereafter.

(b) The term of members of governing bodies and other elected officials of any municipality that would expire at any time in 2017 shall expire on the second Monday in January of 2018, when newly elected members of the governing body and other newly elected officials shall take office.

(c) The governing body of the municipality shall establish by ordinance or resolution terms of office of elected officials to comply with this act.

(d) Primary elections for any municipality shall be conducted as provided in K.S.A. 25-202, and amendments thereto. A primary election shall only be required as provided in K.S.A. 25-2021 and 25-2108a, and amendments thereto, or as otherwise required by law.

(e) The filing deadline for all candidates for any municipality, unless otherwise provided by law, shall be as provided in K.S.A. 25-205, and amendments thereto.

(f) Any person who meets the qualifications for the office sought may become a candidate for municipal office by filing a declaration of intent to become a candidate with the county election officer accompanied by a filing fee of \$20.

(g) "Municipality" means: (1) Any city, consolidated city-county created under K.S.A. 12-340 et seq., and amendments thereto, and K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 12-360 et seq., and amendments thereto, school district, any board of public utilities created under K.S.A. 13-1220 et seq., and amendments thereto, community college, drainage district, extension district created under K.S.A. 2-623 et seq., and amendments thereto, irrigation district, improvement district created under K.S.A. 19-2753 et seq., and amendments thereto, water district created under K.S.A. 19-3501 et seq., and amendments thereto, and hospital district created under K.S.A. 80-2501 et seq., and amendments thereto.

(2) The term does not include any special district where the election of members of the governing body is conducted at a meeting of the special district.

(h) Cities and hospital districts may provide for elections of elected officials in even-numbered years in order to provide for staggered terms of office or for three-year terms of office for elected officials.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 80-2508 is hereby amended to read as follows: 80-2508. (a) Subject to the limitations provided in this act, any of the four methods described in this section may be used in the selection of members of boards. The four methods are:

(1) Elections of board members shall be held at the annual meeting of the qualified electors of the hospital district for the positions on the board which are to expire in such year.

(2) Board members shall be appointed by the governing bodies of the political subdivisions joining in the operation and maintenance of the hospital.

(3) (A) Elections of board members for four-year terms shall be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years for the positions on the board which are to expire in such year. All positions shall be at-large. Each board member shall take office on the second Monday in January following the date of election.

(B) Any person desiring to become a candidate for board member shall file with the county election officer of the county in which the po-

litical subdivisions joining in the operation and maintenance of the hospital, or the greater portion of the area thereof, are located, before the filing deadline specified in K.S.A. 25-2109, and amendments thereto, either a petition signed by not less than 50 electors eligible to vote for a candidate or a declaration of intent to become a candidate together with a filing fee in the amount of \$20.

(C) The county election officer of the county specified in paragraph (B) shall prepare the ballots for such election including ballots for that portion of the district located in any other county. The county election officers of each county shall conduct the election in their respective counties, and the board of county canvassers of each such county shall certify the results of the votes cast in its county to the board of county canvassers in the county in which the ballots for the election were prepared.

(D) Ballots shall be prepared in such manner that each voter is instructed to vote for the same number of candidates as the number of positions to be filled. Such instruction shall specify that the voter may vote for fewer than the total number of candidates for which the voter is qualified to vote.

(4) (A) Elections of board members for *three-year* or four-year terms shall be held on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November of each ~~odd-numbered~~ year for the positions on the board which are to expire in such year. All positions shall be at-large. Each board member shall take office on the second Monday in January.

(B) Any person desiring to become a candidate for board member shall file with the county election officer of the county in which the political subdivisions joining in the operation and maintenance of the hospital, or the greater portion of the area thereof, are located, before the filing deadline specified in K.S.A. 25-2109, and amendments thereto, either a petition signed by not less than 50 electors eligible to vote for a candidate or a declaration of intent to become a candidate together with a filing fee in the amount of \$20.

(C) The county election officer of the county specified in paragraph (B) shall prepare the ballots for such election including ballots for that portion of the district located in any other county. The county election officers of each county shall conduct the election in their respective counties, and the board of county canvassers of each such county shall certify the results of the votes cast in its county to the board of county canvassers in the county in which the ballots for the election were prepared.

(D) Ballots shall be prepared in such manner that each voter is instructed to vote for the same number of candidates as the number of positions to be filled. Such instruction shall specify that the voter may vote for fewer than the total number of candidates for which the voter is qualified to vote.

(b) If the method of selection of members of the board of any hospital is the method provided for in subsection (a)(1) or (2), such method of selection may be changed to the method provided for in subsection (a)(3) or (4) by majority vote of the qualified electors voting at an annual meeting thereof. Whenever the method of selection of members of a board is changed to the method provided for in subsection (a)(3) or (4), the term of each member serving on the board at the time of the change of method of selection shall expire on May 1 of the year in which the term of such member is to expire, except that for the purpose of electing members to the board at a time to coincide with elections for other purposes, the board may extend the term of any member for not to exceed one year from the date such member's term would otherwise expire and the board of Sublette hospital district may change prior to the election the length of term for one member to be elected at the 1997 election from four years to two years. If the members of the board are currently selected pursuant to subsection (a)(3), the method of selection may be changed to the method provided for in subsection (a)(4) by a majority vote of the board members.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 25-21a01 and 80-2508 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. 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 passed that body

HOUSE concurred in
SENATE amendments _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE
as amended _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.