March 29, 2018

The Honorable Keith Esau, Chairperson
House Committee on Elections
Statehouse, Room 151-S
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Esau:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2617 by House Committee on Government, Technology and Security

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2617 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2617 would prohibit the Secretary of State from using its discretionary budget to fund the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program. The Secretary of State would be required to provide an annual accounting of revenue and expenditures related to this Program to the Legislature and adopt rules and regulations that require members of the Program to reimburse the Secretary for the costs of the Program. In addition, the Secretary would be required to enter into a purchase agreement for information technology insurance with regard to any data collected under the Program. Any expenditures or grants of money used by the Secretary of State to fund the Program must be specifically appropriated by the Legislature.

The Secretary would also be required to enter into an agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) no later than January 1, 2019, for the purpose of maintaining a Kansas voter database. The bill would require the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this agreement and to require a term in the membership agreement that requires the state to share identification records collected by the Secretary, excluding those fields unrelated to voter eligibility. The bill specifies the language that must be included on any communication that is required to be delivered to a voter registrant or potential voter registrant pursuant to the agreement. Any communication that must be delivered to a potential voter registrant who has been identified by ERIC as eligible to vote, but who is not registered to vote, must be prepared and disseminated at the direction of the Secretary of State. All other communications with registrants or potential registrants must be prepared at the direction of the appropriate election officer.
The Kansas Secretary of State has been contacted regarding the fiscal effect of HB 2617. At this time, the agency has not responded to the request for information. The Division of the Budget recognizes that enactment of this bill would result in additional expense associated with entering into an agreement with the ERIC system; however, the Division does not have the information necessary to estimate what that expense might amount to. The Division estimates that any additional responsibilities resulting from enactment of the bill could be performed within existing budget resources. If further information regarding the fiscal effect of the bill is received by the Division of the Budget, a revised fiscal note will be issued. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2617 is not reflected in The FY 2019 Governor’s Budget Report.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Campbell
Chief Budget Officer

cc: Kathy Sachs, Office of the Secretary of State