

February 4, 2008

The Honorable Mike Burgess, Chairperson
House Committee on Elections and Government Organization
Statehouse, Room 161-W
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Burgess:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2670 by House Committee on Elections and Governmental Organization

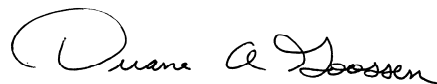
In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2670 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2670 would allow a board of county commissioners to pass a resolution declaring that all local, state and federal elections in that county will be conducted by mail-in ballot.

The Office of the Secretary of State indicates that the bill's fiscal effect lies in the difference in the cost of conducting regular walk-in elections versus mail ballot elections. The passage of HB 2670 would have no fiscal effect on state operations; however, counties that chose to go to all mail-in ballots would see a fiscal effect depending on the counties' demographics and the logistics of the elections.

The Secretary of State uses the following scenario: ballots would be mailed to all persons on the voter registration list, including active and inactive voters; and county governments would pay for outgoing postage as well as return postage. The agency used the anticipated costs for a November general election, such as the one that will occur November 4, 2008, as a comparison between the cost of a regular walk-in election and a mail ballot election. It estimates that counties will spend approximately \$3.0 million to conduct the regular election on November 4, 2008. Conducting the same election by mail would cost approximately \$4.0 million, a 33.0 percent increase, statewide. While there would be some savings in polling place costs and poll worker salaries, the counties' costs for printing, envelopes, and postage would increase. Therefore, the Secretary of State indicates that if the same formula and assumptions are made for other elections, counties could see an average 33.0 percent increase statewide for each election conducted by mail.

Sincerely,



Duane A. Goossen
Director of the Budget

cc: Christy Myers, Secretary of State's Office
Judy Moler, KS Association of Counties