

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-7567
blake.carpenter@house.ks.gov



2425 N. Newberry, Apt 3202
Derby, Kansas 67037
(316) 772-0886
carpenterforkansas@gmail.com

Blake Carpenter
Representative, 81st District

1/31/18

Elections Committee

Supporting Testimony for HB2539

Good afternoon chairwoman and committee members. Over the interim there were several individuals who made us aware that we did not have any requirements to run for the highest offices Kansas offers. Currently, you do not have to be older than 18 and you do not even need to be a resident of the state of Kansas. In a good faith effort to get one of the younger candidates for governor involved in the political process I reached out to Mr. Ethan Randleas of Wichita who is currently 18. He offered the two main ideas that are contained in this bill.

The first idea was that these individuals should be a qualified elector which means at least 18 years old and a resident of Kansas. The second idea was that the individuals running for Governor and Lieutenant Governor need to have lived in Kansas for four consecutive years before becoming candidates for these two positions. The second idea was removed on the House floor and there is no longer a four-year requirement for an individual to run for the office of governor and lieutenant governor. An additional amendment was added on the House floor saying if you want to be the attorney general you need to practice law in the state of Kansas.

This bill adds a minimum set of standards to run for these offices and the bill does not go into effect until January 1st, 2019. At the age of 18 you are an adult in the eyes of our government. You can drive a vehicle, be tried in the court of law as an adult, eligible for the draft, eligible to serve in the military, and smoke tobacco products to name a few. I encourage your support for this legislation and I will stand for any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blake Carpenter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style and is positioned above the printed name of the representative.

Representative Blake Carpenter