

SESSION OF 2018

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2504**

As Recommended by House Committee on  
Elections

**Brief\***

HB 2504 would require the Secretary of State to prescribe the general format of advance voting ballot envelopes. The ballot envelopes would be required to include a signature block for:

- The advance voter;
- The individual assisting the advance voter (if any);  
and
- The individual who signs the advanced ballot envelope on behalf of the advance voter, if the advance voter is physically unable to sign the envelope.

**Background**

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Elections at the request of Representative Carpenter. In the House Committee hearing, Representative Carpenter and the Director of Elections (Director) for the Office of the Secretary of State testified as proponents. They generally stated the bill would guarantee the ballots cast by voters who are unable to sign the ballot envelope would be counted, and supported the additional signature block for the person assisting a voter with a disability that prevents such voter from signing the ballot envelope. No other testimony was provided.

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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>

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill, the Secretary of State indicates developing the general format of advance voting ballot envelopes could be accomplished within existing agency resources. The Kansas Association of Counties expects enactment of the bill to have a fiscal effect only on counties that have invested in a large inventory of advance voting envelopes. These counties would need to discard that inventory and purchase new envelopes that would meet the statutory requirements.