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STATE OF KANSAS

Testimony on HB2715 (Oral Neutral)

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Chairman Barker and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to provide comments on HB2715. Our office is neutral on this legislation.

HB2715 requires the secretary of state, in coordination with the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association, to “create an ongoing comprehensive training and certification program for county election officials.”

Since 2004, state law has required the secretary of state to create and provide training to county election officials: “County election officers...shall receive instruction relating to their duties in conducting official elections, including procedures for complying with federal and state laws and regulations. The form and content of the instruction shall be determined by the secretary of state” (K.S.A. 25-124). Our office currently provides annual training as required by statute.

Before the 2022 mid-term elections, our office will provide updated training, and introduce a new certification program, to all 105 county election officials. We look forward to working alongside our county election officials to administer a safe, secure, and trusted electoral process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Clay Barker
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State
General Counsel