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STATE OF KANSAS

NEWS RELEASE

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Kansas House of Representatives Passes the SAFE Act

This evening the Kansas House of Representatives passed HB 2067 known as the Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) Act. Secretary of State Kris Kobach introduced the bill at a press conference in Memorial Hall on January 18, 2011. It had 51 co-sponsors.

“Today’s vote was a huge victory for the people of Kansas,” said Secretary Kobach. “This bill will insure that in future Kansas elections, it is easy to vote but hard to cheat.”

The SAFE Act will require Kansas voters (1) to produce a photo I.D. confirming their identity; (2) to provide certain information when applying for a mail-in ballot; and (3) to provide evidence of United States citizenship when applying to register to vote. It will strengthen the penalties for elections crimes, as well as promote the investigation and prosecution of voter fraud.

Secretary Kobach said, “I am hopeful that the Senate will move quickly to advance this bill to enactment. The people of Kansas are overwhelmingly in favor of this bill, as surveys have demonstrated.”

The final vote in the House of Representatives was 78 for and 36 against.

Secretary Kobach commented, “Once this bill becomes law, Kansas will stand head and shoulders above the other 49 states in protecting the integrity of our elections. I invite the other states to follow Kansas’s lead.”