OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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Synopsis of Senate Committee Amendments

(This synopsis does not address amendments that may have been adopted on the Senate Floor.)

H.B. 74 of the 135th General Assembly

Senate Financial Institutions and Technology

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Information technology

Retains the provision of the bill that creates the Cybersecurity and Fraud Advisory Board, but:

- Makes the Board a temporary entity that is abolished after it delivers its report to the Governor and the General Assembly within 12 months after its first meeting.

- Requires the Governor, the Attorney General, the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State, and the Treasurer of State to appoint their own employees to the Board, instead of appointing only Department of Administrative Services (DAS) employees.

- Requires appointments to be made within 90 days after the bill takes effect.

- Requires the Board's first meeting to occur within 90 days after the final appointment has been made.

Removes provisions of the bill that would have done all of the following:

- Required the Legislative Service Commission Director, every two years, to submit to the General Assembly a report that included information regarding each state executive department's and statewide elected official's expenditures on information technology (IT) in the previous biennium based on information provided to the LSC Director.

- Required the Governor to include, in each main operating budget the Governor submitted under continuing law to the General Assembly, a detailed statement of the amounts recommended to be appropriated for expenses related to IT systems and services.

- Required the State Chief Information Officer to establish a strategic roadmap for migrating the state's IT systems to the State of Ohio Computer Center and to the state's commercial cloud providers managed by the Office of Information Technology.

- Required the DAS Director to maintain a list of state-owned application software and associated hardware, identify opportunities to leverage the state's buying power for application software used at multiple state agencies, and identify existing data and information silos that exist throughout the state's IT systems.

- Required the DAS Director to contract with a private entity to study the state's IT systems and shared services and report the study's findings to the General Assembly.

- Required the DAS Director to study the average industry fee rates charged for data hosting services and allowed the Director of Budget and Management (OBM) to make the OBM Director's rates comparable to average industry rates.

- Created the Biannual Advisory Committee on State Information and Technology, which would have been required to examine the state's IT systems and services and solicit feedback from state and county users of the state's IT systems and services.

Prefilled elections forms

Prohibits a person from preprinting or filling out any portion of a voter registration form or an application for absent voter's ballots on behalf of an applicant.

Includes exceptions for applicants who require assistance by reason of blindness, disability, or illiteracy.

Allows election officials to continue preprinting names and addresses on absentee ballot applications.

Allows a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's relative to complete a form on the voter's behalf, as under current law.

Voter registration through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Requires all voter registrations and updates completed at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) as part of a customer's transaction to be sent electronically to the Secretary of State within 24 hours, with no paper form sent to a board of elections.

Clarifies that when a customer submits a notice of change of address to the BMV, the BMV must offer the applicant the opportunity to submit a change of address for voter registration purposes electronically in conjunction with the BMV transaction.

Requires BMV deputy registrars to continue to send any paper voter registration forms that are returned to a deputy registrar to the local board of elections within five days.

Statewide election petitions

Requires the Attorney General to certify the title of any statewide initiative or referendum petition, in addition to its summary, as a fair and truthful statement of the proposal before the petitioners may begin collecting signatures.

Applies certain requirements related to paid petition circulators to the circulators of a political party formation petition.

Audits of election results

Requires the boards of elections to conduct post-election audits after every election, instead of only a general election or a primary election held in an even-numbered year.

Approval of voting systems

Renames the Board of Voting Machine Examiners as the Board of Voting Systems Examiners.

Adds a cybersecurity expert appointed by the Secretary of State as a nonvoting member of the Board.

Requires the Board to examine, test, and approve voter registration systems and ballots on demand voting systems, and requires the Secretary to certify those systems, in the same manner as the Board and the Secretary currently do for voting equipment.

Requires the Secretary to adopt standards for the security and integrity of voter registration systems and ballots on demand voting systems.

Requires those systems to meet any applicable standards adopted by the federal Election Assistance Commission in order to be certified.

Prohibits the Secretary or a board of elections from acquiring a voter registration system or a ballots on demand voting system that has not been certified under the bill.

Allows a board of elections that is using a system before the bill takes effect to continue using that system until the county acquires a new system.