



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 212 of the 131st G.A.

Date: January 25, 2016

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Uecker

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Reduces the minimum number of precinct election officials in counties that use electronic pollbooks and makes changes to certain notification requirements

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill reduces the minimum number of election officials in a county using electronic pollbooks from four to two. This would reduce staffing costs for county boards of elections that have acquired electronic pollbooks. There are currently 42 counties using electronic pollbooks in at least some polling locations in those counties.
- Election officials are paid on a per diem rate established by a county board of elections. This per diem rate generally ranges between \$85 and \$160.
- The bill eliminates a requirement that when a board of elections cancels an elector's registration due to death that the board send a notice to the address of record of the cancellation. This would reduce mailing costs for county boards of elections.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Minimum number of election officials

The bill reduces the minimum number of precinct election officials in a county using electronic pollbooks from four to two, but specifies that this change would not take effect until January 1, 2017. There are currently 42 counties using electronic pollbooks that would qualify for the reduced precinct election official staffing requirement under the bill. The Secretary of State advised counties to acquire at least one electronic pollbook per precinct. According to Secretary of State records, during the November 2015 general election, these 42 counties had 4,026 precincts for voting.

Election officials are paid on a per diem rate established by a county board of elections, which generally ranges between \$85 and \$160 per diem. For example, Franklin County pays its election officials a per diem rate of approximately \$134. Hamilton County pays its election officials a per diem rate of approximately \$160. This provision of the bill would reduce staffing costs for county boards of elections in certain circumstances. However, it can be assumed that during most primary and general elections counties would continue to fully staff polling locations.

Am. Sub. H.B. 64, the main operating budget bill, appropriated \$12.5 million in FY 2016 to assist counties in acquiring electronic pollbooks. Counties are still required to pay a portion of these acquisition costs. As of this writing approximately \$4.2 million has been spent for these purposes.

Voter registration cancellation notice

The bill eliminates the requirement that when a board of elections cancels a voter's registration because it received a notification of the voter's death, that the board must subsequently send a notice to the voter's address informing the recipient that the registration has been cancelled. This would appear to reduce mailing costs for county boards of elections.