



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: S.B. 21 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Sen. Uecker

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Reduces the minimum number of precinct election officials in counties that use electronic pollbooks

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- Reducing the minimum number of election officials stationed at precincts from four to two in a county using electronic pollbooks will lower staffing costs for those county boards of elections in certain cases, but probably not during primary and general elections when boards are likely to fully staff polling locations. There are currently 61 counties using electronic pollbooks in at least some polling locations.
- 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

The bill reduces the minimum number of precinct election officials in a county using electronic pollbooks from four to two. This could reduce staffing costs for county boards of elections in certain cases, such as special elections. However, during most primary and general elections, county boards of elections are likely to continue fully staffing polling locations. There are currently 61 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. The rate generally ranges between \$85 and \$160 per diem. Franklin County, for example, pays its election officials a per diem rate of approximately \$134. Hamilton County pays its election officials a per diem rate of approximately \$160.

Am. Sub. H.B. 64 of the 131st General Assembly, the main operating budget act for the FY 2016-FY 2017 biennium, appropriated \$12.5 million over the biennium to assist counties in acquiring electronic pollbooks. The appropriation covers 85% of the costs of acquiring the pollbooks, with counties responsible for paying the remaining portion. As of this writing, approximately \$7.3 million has been spent for these purposes, assisting 40 counties to acquire pollbooks through these funds. Twenty-one counties bought pollbooks before the state provided assistance, although they can be reimbursed for 85% of the costs they incurred for buying electronic pollbooks under terms of the program.¹

The bill also eliminates the requirement that, if a board of elections cancels a voter's registration because it received a notification of the voter's death, then the board must subsequently send a notice to the voter's address informing the recipient that the registration has been cancelled. This provision would presumably result in reduced mailing costs for county boards of elections.

¹ The Secretary of State has advised counties to acquire at least one electronic pollbook per precinct.