



**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0228
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Tate
Rep. Wist

Date: June 7, 2016
Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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BILL TOPIC: BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPES & POLLING LOCATION FIGURES

Note: This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

For counties with at least 25,000 active voters (large counties), this bill reduces the number of early voter service and polling centers (voter centers) required during the first seven days of early voting. During this time, large counties must operate at least one voter center for every 75,000 active voters, rather than one for every 30,000 voters as required under current law. This bill also eliminates the requirement that voter centers be open on the first Saturday of the early voting period. The voter center requirement in the second half of early voting remains the same under the bill.

Background

Under current law, voter centers must at a minimum be open in all counties during the 15 days prior to election day, except on Sundays. Large counties must have one voter center for every 30,000 active voters during the early voting period. Small counties (less than 25,000 active voters) must have at least one voter center per county. The early voting period for the 2016 general election runs October 24 through November 7, with election day being November 8.

Local Government Impact

This bill reduces costs for county clerks conducting general elections by decreasing the required number of voter centers during early voting. Costs in all counties are reduced by eliminating the first Saturday of early voting. Costs are further reduced in large counties by reducing the number of voter centers required to be open during the first seven days of early voting. Savings are generated from paying fewer election judges and reduced rental facility and supply costs. These savings will be offset if a county clerk chooses to operate more than the minimum amount of required voter centers.

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the House State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee on April 20, 2016.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties
Revenue

County Clerks
Secretary of State

Information Technology