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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6605
BILL NUMBER: HB 1216

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 16, 2020
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Ranked Choice Voting for Local Elections.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Errington
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill permits a municipality to implement ranked choice voting for all of the municipality's elected offices. It permits a county to implement ranked choice voting for all offices elected in the county. The bill permits a school corporation to implement ranked choice voting for election of members of the governing body of the school corporation. It also establishes the procedure for a voter to rank the candidates according to the voter's choice when there are three or more candidates for election to an office. The bill establishes the procedures to count the voter's choices as votes at various stages of tabulating ballots. It makes conforming amendments.

Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary-* The bill would have an indeterminable impact on local election expenditures dependent on the number of local units of government (municipalities, counties, or schools) that decide to adopt rank choice voting for local offices. Any unit that chooses to use ranked choice voting for local offices would also have to elect federal, state, and legislative offices under the current voting methods for those offices. Therefore, those units would be, in essence, conducting separate elections which could require the use of additional voting systems and personnel compared to a traditional election.

Additional Information - The following methods could be used by a local unit to conduct an election with ranked choice voting.

(1) *Use of Voting Systems Capable of Ranked Choice Voting*- Purchase or rental of machines and software that can handle ranked choice voting could be necessary to retrofit a jurisdiction to conduct ranked choice voting. Purchasing machines and software (excluding updates) would likely be a one-time expenditure. Total expenditures would depend on the number of units (it is assumed, counties would run school board elections) adopting ranked choice voting under the bill. However, counties currently using the ES&S DS 200 tabulator would likely be able to use them in a ranked choice voting election. Additionally, the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center claims that voting systems produced by Unisyn, Hart Intercivic, Dominion Voting are capable of ranked choice voting.

(2) *Counting Votes by Hand*- Expenditures would occur if temporary election employees were used to run ranked choice voting elections by hand count. These costs would vary depending on county size and the number of ballots counted.

(3) *“Hybrid” Approach*- Given that counties determine their own method of voting as currently allowed under state law, it is possible a “hybrid” combination of hand counting, purchase, or rental of voting systems could occur. The impact of this option would depend on the combinations used and the number of jurisdictions deciding to implement ranked choice voting.

Average Cost Estimate- As an example, the cost to an average sized Indiana county implementing options (1) or (2) is depicted as follows.

Average County Expenditures to Implement Rank Choice Voting		
Precincts	56	
Registered Voters	49,400	
Option Costs	Min	Max
Option (1) Purchase of Ranked Choice Voting Capable Voting Systems	\$333,000	\$430,000
Option (2) Counting Votes by Hand	\$16,000	\$48,000
Cost Per Registered Voter		
Option (1) Purchase of Ranked Choice Voting Capable Voting Systems	\$6.70	\$8.70
Option (2) Counting Votes by Hand	\$0.32	\$0.97

Maine Election– Maine ran their first ranked choice voting election during the June 2018 primary. Maine’s Secretary of State determined that the total cost statewide for the primary election was \$0.8 M including \$220,000 for the rental of voting machines sent to local voting areas due to the previous practice of hand counting ballots and \$160,000 for the secure transportation of the voting machines’ hard drives back to their central count location.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties, municipalities, and school corporations that adopt the use of rank choice voting for local offices.

Information Sources: Mark Manganaro and Jeremy Burton, ES&S; Ed Perez, Hart Intercivic; Chris Ortiz, Unisyn Voting Solutions; Steve Shamo, Microvote; www.essvote.com; www.instantrunoffvoting.us; Minnesota Post: Estimated Cost of Ranked Choice Voting in Minneapolis: \$365,000, May 25, 2010; Indiana Election Division: *2016 Voting Systems Used in Counties*, (revised October 21, 2016); <https://www.ellsworthamerican.com/maine-news/political-news/ranked-choice-voting-costs-questioned/>.

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