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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6472
BILL NUMBER: SB 283

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 5, 2024
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Voting.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Hunley
FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Voter Registration Forms*- The bill provides that an application to obtain or renew a motor vehicle driver's license or permit or an identification card serves as a voter registration application unless the applicant expressly declines on the application to register to vote.

Voter Registration Determination- The bill provides that a voter becomes registered to vote when the county voter registration office (CVRO) determines the voter appears to be eligible to vote at the address on the voter's voter registration application.

Absentee Voting- The bill permits a voter who is qualified to vote in person to vote by absentee ballot. It removes all other qualifications for a voter to vote by absentee ballot except for a voter with disabilities who is unable to make a voting mark on the ballot or sign the absentee ballot secrecy envelope. (Such a voter with a disability is currently required to vote before an absentee voter board.) The bill provides that an elderly voter or a voter with disabilities may apply for permanent absentee voter status. The bill provides that absentee ballots would be sent automatically to voters who have permanent absentee voter status. It makes conforming changes.

Effective Date: January 1, 2025.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Absentee Voting*- This provision should not require new expenditures. The Election Division could combine the forms for the absentee mail ballot and voting by traveling board applications as a result of the bill. The in-person form would likely be retained. The Indiana Archives and Records Administration would be able to edit the Election Division's forms on their website as a routine matter of business.

Voter Registration Forms- The bill would require the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Commission (BMVC) and the Election Division to devise a combined driver's license application and voter registration form. Per the BMV, it would require \$72,000 for the BMVC to implement the information technology updates required for the combined form. If implemented at the license branches, it is likely this expenditure would come from BMVC dedicated funds.

Additional Information- Currently, a person renewing their drivers license or applying for an identification card may register to vote in person at a BMV branch or credential-issuing partner location. The BMV includes the standard state voter registration form on its website that motorists can download to fill out and take with them. The forms are also available at BMV branches.

Persons can also register to vote online via the statewide voter registration system, with a valid Indiana drivers license or Indiana state-issued identification card.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Absentee Voting-* Any increase in local election expenditures would likely vary by county and would depend on the future demand of absentee ballots. However, any additional expenditures would likely not be large. Absentee ballots sent by mail have postage prepaid. Therefore, if more voters request absentee ballots by mail, county postage costs may increase. Certain county clerk offices may experience an increase in workload to process the additional absentee ballot applications that may occur under this provision.

Voter Registration Determination- This provision would likely have a minimal impact to CVROs. Currently, CVROs already process and determine the eligibility of voter applications as a routine administrative function.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: BMVC; Election Division; Forms Division of the Commission on Public Records.

Local Agencies Affected: Precinct election boards, absentee voter boards, circuit court clerks, county election boards; CVROs.

Information Sources: Cody Eckert, Executive Director of Public Policy & Legislation; Brad King, Co-Director, Indiana Election Division.

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