

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 240 - HB 312

March 23, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes any person eligible to vote in an election to register on the day of the election, including any days of early voting, by completing and submitting to an election official a voter registration application form, which must be made available at polling places by county election commissions. In order to receive a form, an individual must provide a valid driver license or photo identification card, and other proof of eligibility as may be prescribed in rules promulgated by the State Election Commission. Such individual must be eligible to vote on a regular ballot.

Further authorizes any person who is already registered to vote and who remains eligible to vote in this state to update or correct any outdated information in the person's voting record on the day of the election, or on any day of early voting, on a form prescribed by the State Election Commission.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures –

Exceeds \$1,570,100/FY19-20

Exceeds \$242,000/FY23-24 and Every Four Years Thereafter

Increase Local Expenditures –

Exceeds \$484,100/FY20-21 and Every Two Years Thereafter*

Exceeds \$242,000/FY21-22 and Every Four Years Thereafter*

Assumptions:

- One additional computer will be required for each election-day polling location. Such computers can be utilized at early voting locations without purchasing a computer specifically for the early voting location.
- Based on information previously provided by the Division of Elections, computers are estimated to cost \$663.75 each, for a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$1,317,544 (\$663.75 per computer x 1,985 election-day locations).
- Voter registration forms will be reprinted to reflect the voter registration deadline. Reprinting of forms will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$10,500.
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures in FY19-20 is estimated to be \$1,328,044 (\$1,317,544 computers + \$10,500 registration form reprinting).

- According to the Division of Elections, an additional election official would be required at each polling place to process voters seeking to register or update their personal information on election-day or during early voting and to cast a regular ballot on the same day.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-4-109, officers of elections, judges, machine operators, and inspectors shall be paid for their services on election-day a minimum of \$50 per day. County legislative bodies are authorized to increase this compensation; however, it is unknown how many have elected to do so.
- There are 2,189 total polling locations within the state; 1,985 are election-day locations while the remaining 204 locations are early voting locations.
- The early voting period lasts for 14 days, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-102, and early voting occurs no more than 20 days nor less than 5 days before the day of the election.
- The proposed language will result in an increase in expenditures estimated to exceed \$242,050 [(\$50 compensation x 1,985 election-day polling locations) + (\$50 compensation x 204 early voting locations x 14 days of early voting)] per election cycle.
- In years with a Presidential Preference Primary, the state will be responsible for such costs; therefore in FY19-20 and every four years thereafter there will be an increase in state expenditures estimated to exceed \$242,050.
- The total increase in state expenditures is estimated to exceed \$1,570,094 in FY19-20 (\$1,328,044 + \$242,050) and exceed \$242,050 in FY23-24 and every four years thereafter.
- In FY20-21 and every two years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$484,100 (\$242,050 per election cycle x 2 election cycles) for the August primary and November general elections; and in FY21-22 and every four years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$242,050.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jdb