

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 517 – HB 1040

April 16, 2017

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Prohibits a county election commission or election official from prohibiting a voter from using a mobile communication device at a polling place except in certain circumstances.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures - \$800/One-Time

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (007119): Deletes and rewrites the bill such that the only substantive change increases the number of circumstances when a county election commission or election official may prohibit a voter from using a mobile communication device at a polling place.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-7-142, voters are prohibited from using mobile communication devices at a polling place for telephone conversations, recording, or taking photographs or videos while inside the polling place.
- The proposed language would authorize an election official to prohibit the use of mobile electronic devices in instances where a voter utilized the device to conduct a conversation within ten feet of any voting machine, ballot box, or voting booth; to photograph or record an election ballot in an attempt to commit voter fraud, voter intimidation, or bribery; to disrupt or delay other persons from voting; to photograph or video persons in the polling place without their consent; to intimidate others; or to discuss candidates or issues on the ballot; or if the ringtone was not silenced.

- According to the Department of State, posters detailing the permissible use of mobile devices at the polling places are distributed to each county for display. Passage of this legislation will require printing of new posters to identify the new permissible uses of mobile devices and distribution of such new posters to the counties. The one-time increase in state expenditures for reprinting posters and distribution is estimated to be \$750.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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