

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7833**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 477**

**NOTE PREPARED: Feb 28, 2003**

**BILL AMENDED: Feb 27, 2003**

**SUBJECT:** Polling place and voting machine accessibility.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lawson C

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) The bill requires each county election board to conduct training and educational meetings for precinct election officers. The bill requires the meeting to include information related to making polling places and voting systems accessible to elderly voters. The bill requires voting systems to meet accessibility requirements not later than January 1, 2006. The bill establishes standards for accessible facilities and accessible voting systems. The bill makes technical changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary:* The bill requires the co-directors of the Election Division to determine whether or not a special polling place must be established in a county with regard to accessibility for disabled voters. The provision would increase the administrative responsibilities of the Election Division.

*Background:* As of November 4, 2002, the Election Division of the Office of the Secretary of State employed 12 persons, 11 full-time and 1 intermittent.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) *Summary: Training of Election Workers-* County election boards would be required to have certain precinct election officers trained on voting equipment. Some counties currently allow a minimal per diem of approximately \$10 to \$15 to attend a training session. As counties with optical scan equipment are already required by state law to hold training sessions for inspectors and sheriffs, it is believed that the fiscal impact of this provision would be minimal. Absentee voter boards

would be required to attend a training session before an election. Current law allows counties the option of providing training sessions for members of absentee voter boards.

***Voting System Accessibility-*** The bill would require each county to have disabled voter accessibility on at least one voting machine per polling place by January 1, 2006. Under Federal regulations, disabled voting areas would be required to have wheelchair access, and various audio and enhanced visual instructions for the operation of the voting system. The estimated impact to local expenditures is currently indeterminable. *This fiscal impact statement will be updated when additional information is available.*

***Background:*** During the 2000 general election, Indiana had approximately 4,400 polling places.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana Election Division.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Office of the circuit court clerk; County election boards.

**Information Sources:** Indiana Election Division; Various County Circuit Court Clerks/Election Boards; *State of Indiana HRM Detail Staffing Report, 11/04/2002.*

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