

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7833

BILL NUMBER: SB 477

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 7, 2003

BILL AMENDED: Mar 31, 2003

SUBJECT: Polling place and voting machine accessibility.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lawson C

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Mahern

BILL STATUS: As Passed - 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. It 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. This provision would apply to training after December 31, 2003.

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, various audio and enhanced visual instructions and accessible parking for easy access to and operation of the voting system. The estimated impact to local expenditures is currently indeterminable. The per county expenditure may be small if only a few headsets and visual instructions such as video tape recordings fulfilled the requirement.

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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