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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6084

BILL NUMBER: SB 14

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 31, 2005

BILL AMENDED: Mar 24, 2005

SUBJECT: Ballot Form.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lawson C

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill establishes a ballot form that lists candidates by office for optical scan and electronic voting systems. The bill adds circles to the types of figures permitted to indicate a vote cast on a ballot card. The bill revises the printed instructions for optical scan ballots to permit a voter to darken the circle, oval, or square indicating the candidate voted for. The bill specifies that "independent ticket" refers only to tickets for: (1) President and Vice President of the United States; or (2) Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

The bill revises the instructions for preparing: (1) an optical scan ballot card; or (2) an electronic voting system; that includes the offices of President and Vice President of the United States. The bill provides that references to punch card ballots expire December 31, 2005 (the use of punch card ballots is prohibited after that date). The bill removes references to: (1) ballot card and electronic voting systems in provisions that only apply to paper ballots; (2) lever voting machines; and (3) the use of punch card ballots for presidential elections. The bill requires that certain features of an electronic voting system concerning the verification or correction of a voter's ballot apply after December 31, 2005.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Summary:* Under current law, ballots for all voting methods (paper ballot, punch card, lever machine, optical scan, and direct recording electronic) are required to be listed by

party. Under the bill, counties with voting systems other than the paper ballot method would be required to arrange their general election ballots by office, in the order specified under the guidelines of IC 3-11-2 (General Election Ballot Forms). Optical scan system counties may experience some minimal expenditure to update ballot forms (printing) to conform with the bill.

Counties with Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) systems may experience some minimal expenditure to update their electronic ballot (reprogramming) to conform with the bill. Counties that currently do not employ an optical scan or direct recording electronic voting system would have to conform to the provisions of the bill upon adoption of one of these voting methods.

Background: As of February 2004, the following counties have the following voting systems:

| Type of Voting System | Number of Counties Using the Voting System |
|------------------------------|---|
| Direct Recording Electronic | 43 |
| Optical Scan | 31 |
| Punch Card | 17 |
| Lever | 1 |

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources: Indiana Election Division.

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