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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7804**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 419

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 3, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Military and Overseas Voter Enhanced Access.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lawson C

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**     **GENERAL**  
                              **DEDICATED**  
                              **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill permits the use of electronic mail to transmit and receive ballots from military voters and overseas voters through a program authorized and administered by the United States Department of Defense. The bill provides that the federal form serving as both a registration application and absentee ballot application for military and overseas voters may be submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission. The bill specifies which types of overseas voters are subject to the provision entitling the voter to cast a ballot for federal offices only. The bill removes obsolete provisions concerning the printing of certain ballots by the Election Division. The bill requires the documentation of certain information concerning absentee applications and ballots cast by military and overseas voters. The bill conforms state law to 2004 federal legislation requiring the counting of ballots only for federal offices cast by military voters present within the United States, and permitting state law to authorize the counting of these ballots regardless of when a county election board might receive an application for a regular absentee ballot from a military voter or overseas voter.

**Effective Date:** Upon passage; July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Under the bill, circuit court clerks may see an increase in administrative time to carry out additional responsibilities with respect to processing applications for absentee ballots.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:**

**Local Agencies Affected:** County election boards, circuit court clerks.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.