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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6186

BILL NUMBER: HB 1011

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 23, 2006

BILL AMENDED: Jan 19, 2006

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Election Law Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Richardson

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: 2nd Reading - 1st House

**FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill has the following provisions:

Statewide Voter Registration List Fee- The bill provides that the fee a person must pay to receive a complete compilation of voter registration information contained in the statewide voter registration list is an annual fee and includes the price for receiving updates of voter registration information throughout the year.

Filing Deadline- The bill provides that an election official may not receive an election law filing that is offered to be filed after a deadline for the filing unless election law provides for the filing after the deadline.

Third-Party Legislative Office Vacancies- The bill provides that a vacancy in a legislative office last held by an individual who was not a member of a major political party shall be filled in a special election.

Precinct Boundary Changes- The bill requires the county executive to file a copy of an approved precinct establishment order with the county auditor. The bill provides that a precinct establishment order issued after June 30, 2005, complies with certain polling place accessibility requirements if the order: (1) includes a statement that the precinct meets the requirements; or (2) states that before April 1, 2006, the county will designate a polling place for the precinct that meets the requirements.

Transfer of Data- The bill conforms statutes to recognize the requirement in current law for electronic transmittal of data between license branches and the statewide voter registration list.

Precinct Committeemen- The bill provides for the election of the precinct committeemen of the Indiana

Republican Party during presidential election years.

Miscellaneous Provisions- The bill removes or repeals expired, superseded, or obsolete provisions of election law. The bill corrects erroneous cross-references. The bill makes technical changes. The bill updates election schedules. (The introduced version of this bill was prepared by the Census Data Advisory Committee.)

Effective Date: Upon passage; January 1, 2006 (retroactive); July 1, 2006.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: *Statewide Voter Registration List Fee-* Under current law, the Election Division charges \$5,000 per compilation of the voter registration list. The bill would annualize the compilation fee to cover updates to the list in a given year.

Background Information: Three applications for a compilation were received by the Election Division in FY 2005. Total revenue collected was \$15,000.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Third Party Legislative Office Vacancies-* Under the bill, a special election would fill a legislative office previously held and vacated by a member of a third party. If the vacancy were to occur within 30 days of a general election, a special election would not be conducted.

Background on Election Expenses: Expenses to run an election include: precinct election board per diem, preparation of ballots (if optical-scan voting systems are used), rental of a facility for polling (if necessary) and/or voting equipment (if necessary). For the 2004 general election, optical-scan ballots cost \$0.29 per ballot or \$290 per one thousand ballots. Based on a small sample of Indiana counties, per diem for election board members ranges from \$65 to \$150 for inspectors and from \$40 to \$100 for judges, clerks, and sheriffs.

Background on Special Elections and the General Assembly: Research of election data reveals 17 special elections were conducted within the time period of 2001 to 2005. The 17 special elections were conducted for either a local or school office. Historical study of the Indiana General Assembly indicates that from 1930 until 1970, no third-party candidates were elected to either the Indiana House or Senate. Between 1890 and 1930, 17 third-party candidates were elected to the General Assembly.

Precinct Boundary Changes- A county executive must send a copy of a precinct establishment order to the circuit court clerk or board of registration under current law. Therefore, this provision should present a minimal increase in administrative time and cost to produce a copy of an order for the county auditor.

Precinct Committeemen- Republican precinct committeemen will be elected during the May 2006 primary election. The election of Republican precinct committeemen during the 2008 presidential primary should have a minimal impact on county election expenditures.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Election Division; Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources: Brad King, Co-Director, Indiana Election Division, 232-3939; various county election boards/registration offices; Election Systems and Software (317) 913-0230; Indiana Election Division; Justin E. Walsh- *The Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly (1816-1978)*.

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