

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7061**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1223

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 1, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Electronic Voter Registration Card.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Bartlett

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

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

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** *Voter Registration Card (VRC)*- The bill requires a county voter registration office, after December 31, 2011, to issue to each voter a VRC with the voter's name, address, precinct name, polling place address, and voter identification number stored in an electronically readable format.

*Voting Systems*- The bill requires that a voting system in an election conducted after December 31, 2011, be capable of recognizing whether an individual who presents an electronic VRC at a polling place is: (1) by the individual inserting or swiping the card, an individual who is entitled to vote at the polling place; and (2) by the voting system's use of a biometric or another identification method approved by the Election Commission, the individual to whom the card was issued.

*VRC as Proof of Identification*- The bill provides that an electronic VRC is an acceptable proof of identification for voting.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:**

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Voter Registration Card*- Counties would require additional expenditures to produce VRCs. The bill does not provide a fee or other revenue source to produce the cards. The cards would need bar-code/swiping technology in order to be used to identify voters at the voting system.

*Voting Systems-* This provision would have an indeterminable impact on local expenditures. If new voting systems were required, county election boards would likely have to cover the purchase costs outside their existing level of resources.

*Background-* Although technologically feasible, the three major vendors of direct recording voting systems indicate none of their current voting systems are equipped with swiping equipment nor are there any plans in the foreseeable future to develop a system with the capability. According to the vendors, the main development issue would be the cost and time investment to receive approval of new voting equipment from the federal election authorities, which could be substantial.

Election Commission- The Election Division reports that the Election Commission (EC) has not approved of card swiping or biometric identification technology to be attached to voting systems. The EC has approved of electronic poll books for the vote center counties of Tippecanoe and Wayne. Typically voters are mailed an identity card permitting them to vote. However, these cards are checked against the electronic poll books on a separate system, which are not attached to the voting systems in those counties.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

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

**Local Agencies Affected:** County election boards.

**Information Sources:** Dale Simmons, attorney, Indiana Election Division, 232-3939; Chris Rigel, public affairs representative, Premier Systems, 1-866-224-1792; Steve Shamo, Indiana sales representative, MicroVote, 317-257-4900; Election Systems and Software, 1-800-247-8683.

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