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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6491

BILL NUMBER: HB 1423

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 22, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Satellite Voting Locations.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Smith V

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: *Required Satellite Voting Locations*- The bill requires the county election board (CEB) of a county with a population of more than 200,000 to establish a satellite office in each municipality with a population of more than 60,000.

Operating Hours- The bill provides that the CEB of such a county may adopt a resolution to establish the hours of the satellite offices and other provisions the board considers useful in operating the satellite offices. The bill provides that if the county election board does not adopt a resolution, the satellite offices must be open during the same hours that office of the circuit court clerk is open for casting absentee ballots.

Procedure to Cast Absentee Ballot in Satellite Location- The bill requires the procedure for casting an absentee ballot at a satellite office to be substantially the same as the procedure for casting an absentee ballot in the office of the circuit court clerk. The bill makes technical changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Required Satellite Voting Locations*- Qualifying counties establishing satellite voting offices could mitigate the expense of satellite facilities (such as rent) by placing them in other public buildings (public schools or other offices). Marion County had satellite locations 29 days prior to the last general election date.

Background Information- As of the 2000 Census, there were four Indiana counties and five municipalities within these counties that met the population requirements of this bill. The following table lists the counties, number of qualifying municipalities, and the absentee vote rate from the two most recent elections for which data is available.

County	Number of Qualifying Municipalities	Percent Voting Absentee	
		2006 General	2008 General
Allen	1	9%	20%
Lake	2	6%	17%
Marion	1	6%	24%
St. Joseph	1	12%	24%

Note: Hamilton County as of July 1, 2007, had an estimated population of 261,661 and 2 municipalities above 60,000 inhabitants. Elkhart County as of July 1, 2007, had an estimated population of 197,942 persons with Elkhart (city) at 52,647.

The statewide total absentee voting percentage was 24% in the 2008 general, 11% in the 2008 primary, and 10% in the 2006 general elections.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties and municipalities that meet the population requirements of the bill.

Information Sources: U.S. Bureau of Census; Indiana Office of Secretary of State (Election Division).

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