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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6491**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1423

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 19, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Satellite Voting Locations.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Smith V

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**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:** (Revised) *Required Satellite Voting Locations*- 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, an estimated cost range, and the absentee vote rate from the two most recent elections for which data is

available.

County	Number of Qualifying Municipalities	Low Estimate	High Estimate	Percent Voting Absentee	
				2006 General	2008 General
Allen	1	\$1,800	\$9,000	9%	20%
Lake	2	\$3,600	\$18,000	6%	17%
Marion	1	\$1,800	\$9,000	6%	24%
St. Joseph	1	\$1,800	\$9,000	12%	24%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	n/a	n/a

*Note:* Hamilton County as of July 1, 2007, had an estimated population of 261,661 and two 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 above estimate assumes two to five persons would be stationed at each satellite office, daily pay would be \$90, and the offices would be open 10 to 20 days.

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 11 days prior to the last general election date.

*Background Information-* 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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