

**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 6491**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1423

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 23, 2009

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 23, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Satellite Voting Locations.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Smith V

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

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

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

**IMPACT:** Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) *Required Satellite Voting Locations*- The bill requires the county election board of a county with a population of more than 400,000 to establish a satellite office in each municipality with a population of more than 60,000.

*Operating Hours*- The bill provides that the county election board 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 the circuit court clerk's office 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 two counties and three 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 |
| Lake         | 2                                   | \$3,600        | \$18,000        | 6%                      | 17%          |
| Marion       | 1                                   | \$1,800        | \$9,000         | 6%                      | 24%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>3</b>                            | <b>\$5,400</b> | <b>\$27,000</b> | n/a                     | n/a          |

The above estimate includes the personnel costs of two to five persons stationed at a satellite office. Daily pay was estimated at \$90, and the offices would be open between 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).

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