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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7145

BILL NUMBER: HB 1509

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 2, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Various Election Law Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. GiaQuinta

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: *Voter Registration*- The bill provides that a voter becomes registered to vote when the county voter registration office determines the voter appears to be eligible to vote at the address on the voter's voter registration application. The bill requires a county voter registration office to note that a voter is in inactive status if the notice of voter registration is returned by the United States Postal Service due to an unknown or insufficient address. The bill eliminates the seven day period during which a voter's voter registration application is considered pending.

Absentee Ballot Voting- The bill permits a voter who is qualified to vote in person to vote by absentee ballot. The bill removes all other qualifications for a voter to vote by absentee ballot except for a voter with disabilities who is unable to make a voting mark on the ballot or sign the absentee ballot secrecy envelope. (Such a disabled voter is currently required to vote before an absentee voter board.)

Beginning Date of Absentee Voting- The bill makes the beginning date of absentee voting in the clerk's office or a satellite office one day later than under current law.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Voter Registration*- This provision would save administrative time of staff of the county voter registration office and election board. Inactive status could be applied to a voter's

record more quickly than under current law.

Absentee Ballot Voting- County election boards, particularly counties with direct recording electronic voting systems, would require additional paper ballots for voters choosing to vote absentee. Therefore, this provision would increase election board ballot expenditures. Additional local expenditures would depend on the number of additional ballots ordered by counties in future elections. Ballots cost approximately 30 to 32 cents.

Beginning Date of Absentee Voting- This provision would allow county election boards to more efficiently process voter registrations received on the last day of voter registration, which under current law coincides with the first day of absentee voting before the board.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: County voter registration offices, election boards.

Information Sources:

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