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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Fox-Young DATE TYPED 1/25/05 HB 20

SHORT TITLE Require Voter Identification by Signature SB _____

ANALYST Medina

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$250.0			Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB18, HB63, HB41, HB208, SB40

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
Secretary of State

Responses Received From
Secretary of State

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 20 appropriates \$250.0 from the general fund to the Secretary of State for the purpose of reimbursing counties for purchasing digital facsimile signature printers. The bill calls for the signature rosters at each polling place to contain every registered voter's signature in digital facsimile form. When voting at the polling place, the voter would be required to sign the voting roster and that signature would then be compared to the signature kept on file by the county on the signature roster. If the signature entered by the voter in the voting roster does not match, varies significantly from the digital facsimile signature on the signature roster, and no member of the precinct board has personal knowledge of the identity of the voter, the voter would be required to vote on a provisional paper ballot. Voters qualifying for assistance pursuant to Section 1-12-12 NMSA 1978 would be exempt from the provisions of the bill.

Significant Issues

The expertise of the poll workers or precinct board charged with determining whether or not the voter's signature matches the digital facsimile signature on file might be of concern to voters. If a voter is not able to reproduce his or her signature to the satisfaction of the precinct board, that voter may feel disenfranchised, especially if the voter is not prepared to produce the appropriate form of identification required for voting by provisional paper ballot.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250.0 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund for expenditure in fiscal years 2006 and 2007. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to the Secretary of State, county clerks will require training, and will likewise be required to train precinct workers in the upkeep, operation and maintenance of the new system.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Secretary of State is uncertain as to the actual cost of acquiring and operating such digital facsimile printers.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

Status quo.

DXM/yr