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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Fox-Young DATE TYPED 1/25/05 HB 23

SHORT TITLE Election Day Polling Place Requirements SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Medina

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
			NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 22 and the Election Code.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files  
Secretary of State

Responses Received From  
Secretary of State

#### SUMMARY

##### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 23 amends the Election Code with a provision requiring the election judge at a polling place to post the number of ballots cast and the number of voters at a polling place on Election Day. The bill requires that upon the closing of the polling place, the number of each type of ballot (electronic, emergency and provisional) and the number of voters who signed the signature roster be determined by the election judge at each precinct. The results/totals are then to be posted for public viewing.

##### Significant Issues

According to the Secretary of State:

“For election judges to determine and post the number of each type of ballot cast in their precincts is logistically impossible:

- (1) Provisional ballots are not canvassed at the precincts, they are canvassed by

the county canvassing board which convenes three-days after the election to begin the canvassing process.

- (2) Provisional ballots cannot be tallied until they are qualified.
- (3) Election judges need time to tally ballots cast and due to volume and time constraints this procedure is not completed, ‘upon the closing of the polling place’.”

This bill calls for the election judge to report on the number of ballots cast and the number of voters signing the signature roster, not the number of canvassed or otherwise validated ballots cast. The bill provides a point of reference to determine the number of ballots that are determined to be invalid when canvassed.

Under the provisions in the bill, poll workers would likely be required to spend extra time working after the polls close.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?**

Current reporting practices and procedures will continue to be utilized.

DXM/yr