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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/07

SPONSOR Harden LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Mail-In Irrigation District Election Ballots SB 434

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

No Responses Received From
Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 434 allows the irrigation district board to select an election procedure with in-person voting or with all mail-in ballots for any election, subsequent to the organization of the district, in which a director is elected or for any bond election. The bill adds the following procedure for in-person elections. One judge shall be chair of the board of election and may administer all oaths required in the progress of any election and appoint judges and clerks. Before opening the polls, the election board members must take an oath to perform the duties. Hours of the polls shall be from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

New language is added to describe the mail-in ballot procedure. Specifically, the will appoint one person from each of the three precincts to serve on the board of election. The board, 35 days prior to the election, will mail qualified electors a ballot and notify them that there will not be a polling place. Upon receipt of ballots, which will be received until 7:00 p.m. on election day, the board will check off that the qualified elector has returned the ballot. Mail-in ballots will be delivered in an unopened ballot box by the board of elections to the board of directors, who will count the ballots.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill may need to describe the process for replacement ballots.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

LFC staff note that the use of mail-in ballots will make smaller elections more manageable and will allow more voters to cast ballots.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Irrigation district elections will continue to be conducted as the currently are.

EO/mt