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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR HVEC **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/27/09
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** 52 & 395/HVECS
SHORT TITLE Same Day Voter Registration **SB** _____
ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Conflicts with SB690
Conflicts with HB591
Conflicts with HB785

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Attorney General's Office (AGO)
County Clerks Affiliate (CCA)
Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

No Responses Received From

Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The House Voters and Election Committee substitute combines HB 52 and 395, providing for voter registration at early voting sites and on Election Day. The substitute bill eliminates references to "precinct board members" as registrants and restricts acceptable photo identification to "government issued" photo identification. The substitute bill also provides that voters at early voting sites sign an application to vote rather than the signature roster.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

It is difficult to predict how many people might choose early voter registration, which might mean the Secretary of State ordering more ballots. Of course, during the 2008 general election

2.6 million ballots were ordered and 1.8 million went unused so, it is reasonable to assume that the agency would not increase its order. Ballots are paid for from the state's general fund. The 2008 general election cost \$5.2 million versus \$1.2 million for general elections run on electronic voting systems.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The substitute still provides for a 28 day period of closed registration excepting the early voting site registration. The AGO finds it unclear as to the purpose being served by the closed period when voters can register during early voting itself.

DFA suggests that restricting same day registration to early voting sites would likely have slight increase in voter participation than indicated under the terms of the original bill. The clause that new registrations and changes to voters' registrations at early voting sites must be entered into the statewide electronic voter file in order for affected electors to vote on precinct-specific ballots the same day was added per the request of county clerks. This will prevent mal-intended people from casting ballots at multiple same day voting locations.

DFA further adds that the bill adopted by the House includes requirements that to be used as physical forms of identification the address shown on current and valid government-issued photo identification need not match an elector's registration address but that the address shown on other current forms of documentation must match the elector's registration address. This appears to be a reasonable way to appease concerns of voter fraud with same day registration and voting while allowing for registered voters to update their registration information with relative ease.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The following is a list of bills that conflict with HB52&395:

Senate Bill 690 sets out more stringent criteria for proof of identity for voter registration. There are a number of pending bills relating to elections and registration but SB 690 is the bill with conflicting provisions.

House Bill 591 restricts the identification required for voter registration and voting, eliminating the current allowance of bills, bank statements, government checks/identification and Indian Nation identification.

House Bill 785 adds a new section to the Motor Vehicle Code requiring the director to enter into an agreement with social security commissioner for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of voter registration applications, in accordance with federal law.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The County Clerks Affiliate underscores that the HVEC substitute restricts same day registration to the early voting period only. It also requires documentary identification to be provided when registration at an early voting site. A person may not change political parties in a primary when updating an existing registration at an early voting site. Finally, the county clerk is required to immediately add the new registrant into the statewide voter registration database. If this database is not available, the registrant votes on a provisional ballot.