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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-26-09

SPONSOR Steinborn LAST UPDATED 3-12-09 HB 855/aHCPAC

SHORT TITLE School and Special Election Precinct Workers SB _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Secretary of State (SOS)*

County Clerks Affiliate (CCA)*

**Agencies did NOT respond to amendment, responses are related to original bill.*

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HCPAC Amendment

The House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee amendment to House Bill 855 revises the requirement related to elections other than the primary, general and special federal elections, that instead of two judges and two clerks from different political parties serving on the precinct board only one judge and one clerk be on the precinct board. It deleted the section that allowed for a clerk to determine if additional precinct officials are required and appoint as necessary.

Synopsis of Original Bill

This bill will change the requirement of five precinct officials to three precinct officials. If a clerk determines that additional precinct officials are required, the clerk may appoint as the clerk deems necessary.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the County Clerks Affiliate and Secretary of State, this bill will result in a cost savings for school districts and for counties with small special district elections. Historically, the turnout for these types of elections often runs between 5-10 percent of the eligible voters, it is not necessary to have the larger precinct boards so necessary for a primary or general election. The

CCA note that its poll workers often report how bored they are during school elections and the voters can be served as well with a smaller group. For example, in the recent school election in Santa Fe County the school district would have saved over \$7 thousand if this law were in effect.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

The SOS considers that although school district elections are “non-partisan”, will “partisan” makeup of the precinct officials be considered when appointing these officials?

EO/mc