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F I S C A L I M P A C T R E P O R T



SPONSOR: Thompson DATE TYPED: 01/21/02 HB 9

SHORT TITLE: Voter Identification SB _____

ANALYST: Woodlee

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	NFI				

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Secretary of State

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 9 proposes to amend Section 1-12-10 NMSA 1978 to require voters to present one of the following forms of identification:

- New Mexico voter registration card;
- Social Security card;
- Valid New Mexico driver's license;
- Any other identification card issued by an agency of the state, its subdivision, or the United States; or
- Any valid employee identification card containing a photograph of the employee, issued by an employer for ordinary course of the employer's business.

In addition, the bill provides that if the voter is unable to present such identification, then he/she shall be allowed to vote after executing a statement swearing or affirming that he or she is the named registered voter. Knowingly providing a false statement in such a case constitutes perjury as

provided in Section 30-25-1 NMSA 1978 and voting on the basis of this statements constitutes false voting as provided in Section 1-20-8 NMSA 1978.

Significant Issues

The Secretary of State indicates that the bill only provides for identification to be shown at polling stations and does not included absentee voting. Absentee voting does not require any person-to-person contact and therefore no identification could be provided, possibly creating two unequal standards.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no appropriations or significant fiscal implications associated with this bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

It is possible the voting process could be slightly delayed because of the added task of verifying identification cards.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The Secretary of State indicates that Page 2, Line 1 should be amended to read, “a New Mexico voter identification card” because the registration card remains in the possession of the county clerk and the voter receives a voter identification card.

MW/ar