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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR HCPAC DATE TYPED 3/9/05 HB CS/18, 41, 208, 329

SHORT TITLE Require Voter Identification SB _____

ANALYST Medina

APPROPRIATION

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the Election Code

Conflicts with Senate Rules Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 678, 680, 718 and 735

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Secretary of State (SOS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HCPAC Substitute

House Consumer and Public Affairs Committee Substitute for House Bills 18, 41, 63, 208 and 329 consolidates legislation relating specifically to voter identification, amending the Election Code to provide for voter identification requirements. The bill:

- requires applicants for certificates of voter registration to submit a copy of a current and valid photo identification, or a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document, including identification issued by an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo—these are referred to throughout the bill as the required identification;
- requires that the voter submit this required identification when voting in person or absentee;
- requires that the election judge ask the voter for the required identification and verify that the name and address appearing on the signature roster be “substantially the same” as it appears on the voter’s required identification;
- requires that in order to receive an absentee ballot, the voter must submit a copy of

- one of the required forms of identification or a current and valid photo identification;
- clarifies that if a qualified voter does not present the required form of identification, the voter is to be issued and is to vote using a provisional ballot;
- clarifies that the Secretary of State is to establish procedures for the submittal of required identification with mailed-in absentee ballots; and
- requires that an absentee voter include a copy of the required identification in the official inner envelope when mailing in an absentee ballot.

Significant Issues

The requirement that the name and address appearing on the signature roster and on the certificate of registration be “substantially the same” as it appears on the voter’s required identification. The Secretary of State notes that if a voter moves, the voter’s address cannot possibly be substantially the same as the voter’s previous address.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill would have a minimal fiscal impact related to the administrative implications for the Secretary of State.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Secretary of State would be required to provide election workers with the necessary notification and training regarding new voter identification requirements.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Rules Committee Substitute for Senate Bills 678, 680, 718 and 735 conflicts with this bill in its requirements for voter identification. The provisions in SRC/SB 678 et al. do not require that the address on the voter’s valid identification match the address on the voter’s certificate of registration. Furthermore, C/SB 678 et al. allows that voters present original (written) forms of voter identification *or* a verbal or written statement by the voter of the voter’s name, year of birth and unique identifier; provided that the statement of the voter’s name also need not contain the voter’s middle initial or suffix.

Conversely, this bill, HCPAC/HB 18 et al., requires that the name and address appearing on the signature roster be “substantially the same” as the name and address indicated on the voter’s required identification. If these are not substantially the same, then the voter must present current and valid photo identification or otherwise vote on a provisional ballot.

ALTERNATIVES

Election reform legislation may be analyzed during the interim allowing for more input from voters and others concerned with election reform.

DXM/yr