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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Sandoval DATE TYPED: 2/19/03 HB 444

SHORT TITLE: Replacement of Absent Precinct Board Members SB _____

ANALYST: Chavez

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
			NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Secretary of State (SOS)
LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 444 requires the number of appointed absent voter precinct board members from each *major* political party to be as nearly equal as is practicable.

Significant Issues

The bill amends 1-6-24 NMSA 1978 which currently states that there should be no more than two members belonging to the same political party appointed to the absent voter precinct board. This language limits the number of members (two members) per political party.

House Bill 444 permits any size absent voter precinct board as long as the number from each *major* political party is nearly equal as is practicable. The bill does not alter the minimum requirement of three precinct board members to be appointed to the absent voter precinct board.

The definition of *major* political party found in 1-1-9 NMSA 1978 is defined as any qualified political party, any of whose candidates received as many as five percent of the total number of votes cast at the last preceding general election for the office of governor, or President of the United States, as the case may be and whose membership totals not less than one-third of the

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percent of the statewide registered voter file on the day of the governor's primary election proclamation. Currently, New Mexico has three major political parties: Democratic, Republican and Green Party.

FC/njw