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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/08
 LAST UPDATED 1/31/08 HB 249

SPONSOR Wirth

SHORT TITLE Community College and School District Elections SB _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SJR4

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

- Attorney General's Office (AGO)
- Association of County Clerks (ACC)
- Secretary of State (SOS)
- Higher Education Department (HED)
- Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 249 amends existing statutes sections related to community colleges. Specifically, it changes when community college board elections must be held. It requires them to be held in conjunction with regular school district elections on the first Tuesday of February in each odd-numbered year if the board and school board agree to hold concurrent elections; if not, on a date prescribed by the Community College Act. Another section of the bill contains language related to a resolution that must be issued by the community college board when noticing an election. That section has language consistent with the previously referenced concurrent-election language.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Association of County Clerks notes that this bill will result in a considerable cost savings to both districts. Since both elections are conducted under School Election Law, requirements for precinct boards are identical. Shared precinct boards will cut the cost to both districts. In addition, the cost to the districts for county personnel to deliver and pick up voting equipment, truck rental and even the cost of ballots will be reduced. An exact estimate of cost savings would depend on each individual district.

Higher Education Department echo ACC, offering that although there is no funding accompanying HB249, it is likely that enacting this legislation would reduce costs incurred by separate elections.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As explained by the Secretary of State, this bill conflicts with Article VII, Section 1 which states: "... All school elections shall be held at different times from other elections ...". Senate Joint Resolution 4 seeks to repeal that part of the constitution. If it passes and is removed by the voters, this bill would be constitutional and the sponsor may wish to re-introduce it in 2009.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to SJR 4 "School Elections with other Elections".

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill does not specify which school board must agree with the community college board for the two to hold concurrent elections. There are 89 school boards in the state. Presumably, the school board is in the school district where the community college is located.

EO/mt:nt