

## Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB52

House of Origin    ☐    Introduced    ☒ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
 Second House       ☐    In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Whipple

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Voting equipment; wireless communications at polling places.

**5. Summary:** Provides exceptions to the prohibition on wireless communications to or from voting devices at the polls on election day. First, wireless communications to transmit results from voting equipment by modem to the electoral board after the polls close is permitted. Second, electronic pollbooks may be used.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** State Board of Elections

**6a. Expenditure Impact:**

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Positions</i> | <i>Fund</i> |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 2008               | \$0            |                  |             |
| 2009               | \$0            |                  |             |
| 2010               | (\$118,169)    |                  | General     |
| 2011               | (\$118,169)    |                  | General     |
| 2012               | (\$118,169)    |                  | General     |
| 2013               | (\$118,169)    |                  | General     |
| 2014               | (\$118,169)    |                  | General     |

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**8. Fiscal Implications:**

Wireless exception for transmitting results is not anticipated to produce immediate cost savings for the State Board of Elections. The above savings estimate is based on statewide use of electronic pollbooks. Savings would likely not be realized for the State Board of Elections prior to FY 2010 due to time necessary for statewide deployment of pollbooks.

State Board of Elections Cost Savings

|                         |           |                |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Pollbook Printing Costs | \$        | 45,000         |
| Shipping cost           | \$        | 12,000         |
| Pre-printed Paper Cost  | \$        | 31,169         |
| Voting Credit           | \$        | 30,000         |
| <b>Total:</b>           | <b>\$</b> | <b>118,169</b> |

The benefit in transmitting results via wireless communication would be immediate efficiency at the local level. This would be the case when a locality has purchased voting equipment technology that allows them to transmit the results directly from the voting equipment located at the precinct to the registrar's office or another central location. Transmission via wireless technology would eliminate the need for land lines in the polling place area.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Local electoral boards, State Board of Elections

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 2/13/2008 egw

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cc: Secretary of Administration