

Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB679

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Cole, M.L.

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Elections; voting equipment.

5. Summary: Makes technical amendments to reflect updates in voting equipment technology. The bill also authorizes the State Board to conduct audits of ballot scanner machines; currently, these audits are conducted as part of a pilot program. Two outdated sections regarding mechanical voting devices and ballots generally were repealed. Amendments made to the bill provide that an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage and require that electronic voting systems approved by the Board be programmable to allow ballots to be separated when necessary.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: No state fiscal impact. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: None. According to the State Board of Elections, this bill will have no fiscal impact on the agency. The agency will be responsible for informing the elections community of the amendments made in the bill; however, it will be able to do so during existing annual community events. The agency currently conducts audits of ballot scanner machines in a pilot program and states that expanding its authority to conduct audits will have minimal impact on the agency. The State Board of Elections will be able to absorb any costs or increases in workload that may result from the bill with its existing resources and personnel.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Board of Elections; localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: As amended, this bill is similar but not identical to SB456.

Date: 2/3/2014

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