

## Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB2544

House of Origin	<u>X</u>	Introduced	<u>  </u>	Substitute	<u>  </u>	Engrossed
Second House	<u>  </u>	In Committee	<u>  </u>	Substitute	<u>  </u>	Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Cole

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:** Elections; recounts.

**5. Summary:** Applies to elections in which the winning or losing candidate was a write-in candidate and provides that the losing candidate may initiate a recount when the difference between the winning and losing candidates is not more than five percent of the total vote cast for those two candidates. Current law dictates that recount may be initiated only if the difference between the winning and losing candidates is not more than one percent of the total vote cast for those two candidates.

**6. Fiscal impact is indeterminate.**

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Expanding the margin of difference to requests a recount in election results from one to five percent will likely increase the occurrence of requests and, therefore, costs to the agency and local governments. Initiation of a recount causes the State Board of Elections to absorb costs of staff overtime needed to assist local governments in this process. Local governments also incur additional costs for election staff overtime and increased use of any applications needed to recount votes.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 1/21/2009 dpb

**Document:** G:\2009 Session\FIS 2009\HB2544.Doc

cc: Secretary of Administration