

## Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1192

House of Origin      X     Introduced                 Substitute                 Engrossed  
Second House                In Committee             Substitute                 Enrolled

**2. Patron:**        Puckett

**3. Committee:** Privileges and Elections

**4. Title:**        **Voter registration drives; payment or receipt of compensation; penalty.**

**5. Summary:** Provides that voter registration drives, defined as a coordinated effort by two or more individuals to provide assistance to 100 or more members of the general public in completing and submitting voter applications, must register with the State Board of Elections and fulfill the training requirements established by the State Board. The State Board shall maintain a list of all voter registration drives that have been registered and shall post this list on its website. The bill also provides that a person assisting an applicant with the completion and return of a voter registration application shall not disclose or copy the day and month of the applicant's birth, except as authorized by law. The bill also makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to influence a person to register to vote by bribery or force and makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor to pay or receive compensation on a fee per signature basis or on a basis related to the number of signatures obtained for circulating election-related petitions or completing and submitting voter registration applications.

**6. Fiscal impact estimates are indeterminate.**

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**8. Fiscal Implications:** State Board of Elections currently provides training to individuals to conduct voter registration drives, so this bill causes no fiscal impact to the agency.

The bill penalizes anyone offering compensation or assistance for signatures with a Class 1 misdemeanor. Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays the localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2008), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$28.77 per inmate, per day in FY 2007.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** State Board of Elections, State and local law enforcement, court system

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None

**Date:** 1/26/2009 dpb

**Document:** G:\2009 Session\FIS 2009\SB1192.Doc

cc: Secretary of Administration