

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1921

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

2. Patron: Herring

3. Committee: Privileges and Elections

4. Title: Absentee voting; declared state of emergency.

5. Summary: Provides that in case of an emergency declared by the Governor, or declared by the President of the United States or the governor of another state and confirmed by the Governor, any registered voter whose precinct is affected by the emergency may vote absentee by mail or in person without giving one of the standard authorized reasons for voting absentee.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 87

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See Item 9

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2014	\$80,000	0	GF

8. Fiscal Implications: The State Board of Elections indicates that recent reports document that early voting entails significant added administrative costs without material savings on largely fixed Election Day costs.

SBE estimates the current first year cost for the agency to implement this legislation at \$80,000. This consists of a major change to the statewide voter registration system, VERIS. Costs to revise, translate, and replace the absentee application forms and update voter education and guidance documents to address early voting can be absorbed by the agency. In 2011, the actual fiscal impact of implementation costs to SBE for legislation affecting absentee eligibility was \$45,000. SBE estimates that the current cost will be higher because these kinds of changes affecting VERIS absentee functions must be classified as major changes which cost \$80,000.

Local governments will potentially incur significant costs for alternative emergency absentee voting procedures which could include (1) expanded operating hours on evenings and weekends; and (2) an increase in the demand for in person voting in the general registrar's office starting 14 days before the election when the requirement for an excuse to vote absentee would be lifted for voters registered in precincts affected by a declared emergency. These added costs would vary by locality and be similar to no excuse in person absentee voting. However, administration

would be more complex and potentially more costly due to the affected precinct limitation. Localities opting to provide additional satellite locations to meet the local demand would incur costs estimated at \$2,000 per satellite with an additional start up cost of \$29,000.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Board of Elections, Localities

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: n/a

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 2/1/13

Document: G:\2013 FIS's\SBE\HB1921.DOC

c: