

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1283 - SB 1400**

March 26, 2009

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires a voter to declare a political party affiliation upon registering to vote in order to be eligible to vote in subsequent primaries. Any person registered to vote prior to July 1, 2009, will be required to declare a party affiliation at the first primary in which the person votes.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$31,200/One-Time**

**Increase Local Expenditures - \$495,000/One-Time\***

Assumptions:

- New voter registration forms would have to be printed and distributed to all the appropriate agencies since additional information is required on the voter registration form.
- Approximately 500,000 voter registration forms would be required to be printed at a cost of \$28,200 (\$56.40 per unit per thousand x 500 units).
- The state database would require updating to include a field for party affiliation. The cost of such modification is estimated to be \$3,000 (\$75 x 40 hours).
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, new voter registration cards would need to be issued to individuals who are currently registered to vote. In order to vote in a primary election, voters must declare a party affiliation, at which time new voter registration cards will be issued.
- The cost of printing new cards, postage and manpower would be \$.33 per voter.
- There are approximately 3,600,000 registered voters in Tennessee.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, the number of voters who will vote in the August 2010 primary election and will need new cards is estimated to be a minimum of 1,500,000 voters. The one-time cost to print and distribute new cards that display party affiliation to this population is estimated to be approximately \$495,000 (1,500,000 registered voters x \$.33).

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- The remaining 1,200,000 registered voters would need new registration cards if and when they vote in a primary election. Voters are only required to declare party affiliation in a primary election or if they are new registrants. If voters do not vote in a primary election, a new registration card may never be issued. It is expected that the remaining 1,200,000 voters would be issued cards over time if and when they vote in a primary election.

\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

James W. White, Executive Director

/rct