

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1812 - SB 2212

February 8, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the county election commission to mail notice to each active voter if there is a change in the voter's polling place or district; notice shall include the voter's new polling place, district, and precinct number.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$100,000*

Other Fiscal Impact - The mandatory increase in local government expenditures is estimated to exceed \$450,000 in FY21-22 and every ten years thereafter.

Assumptions:

- The provisions of the bill are applicable only to local government.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-3-105, immediately after any alteration of precinct boundaries or a change of district, the county election commission shall publish the changed boundaries in a newspaper of general circulation. Notice to each active voter is mailed only if the voter's polling place is changed.
- According to the Secretary of State (SOS), most district changes occur every ten years during redistricting; however district changes can occur within a county independent of the redistricting process.
- Due to several unknown factors such as the method by which any future redistricting will occur in a non-redistricting year, the number of district changes occurring within counties independent of the redistricting process, and the number of voters impacted by any such changes, a precise impact to local government expenditures is difficult to determine; however, the mandatory increase in local government expenditures is reasonably estimated to exceed \$100,000 statewide.
- According to information provided by SOS, during the 2012 redistricting approximately 1,900,000 voters had a change in their senate or house district.
- SOS estimates that 60 percent, or 1,140,000 voters (1,900,000 x 60.0%), received notice pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-3-105 during the 2012 redistricting cycle. Under the provisions of the bill, the remaining 40 percent, or 760,000 voters (1,900,000 x 40.0%), would have been required to receive notice, which would have resulted in an increase in

local government expenditures of \$494,000 (760,000 voters receiving notice x \$0.65 postage rate per mailing) statewide.

- Due to several unknown factors such as the method by which any future redistricting will occur during the redistricting process, and the number of voters county election commissions will be required to notify during the next redistricting cycle in 2022, a precise impact to local government expenditures in redistricting years is difficult to determine; however, the mandatory increase in local government expenditures is reasonably estimated to exceed \$450,000 in FY21-22 and every ten years thereafter.

**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:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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