

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2125 – SB 2101

February 16, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Authorizes the Rutherford County Election Commission (RCEC) to create a pilot project to establish convenient voting centers on Election Day, if the pilot project is adopted by resolution by a super majority vote of the RCEC; provided the RCEC submits a written plan for approval to the Coordinator of Elections prior to implementing convenient voting centers. Such pilot project shall only apply to elections occurring in 2016 following enactment of this bill.

Requires convenient voting centers used in the pilot project to have a secure electronic connection to the computerized voter registration system maintained by the RCEC, permitting all voting information processed by any computer at a convenient voting center to be immediately accessible to all other computers at all convenient voting centers in the county. Requires each convenient voting center to meet applicable federal and state laws, including the accessibility requirements of the Help America Vote Act in 42 U.S.C. § 15301.

Requires the RCEC to publish in a newspaper of general circulation the location of the convenient voting centers no less than 30 days before the election. Requires the Coordinator of Elections to file a report with the State and Local Government Committee of the Senate and the Local Government Committee of the House of Representatives by January 31 following any election conducted under the pilot project.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase Local Expenditures – Net Impact –
\$26,600/One-Time/Rutherford County/Permissive

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (012262): Deletes all language after the enacting clause and rewrites the bill in a way that the only substantive change mandates the provisions of the bill shall apply to Rutherford County elections held in the 2018 calendar year and establishes an effective date of January 1, 2017.

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FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

**Increase Local Expenditures – Net Impact -
\$52,000/FY17-18/Rutherford County/ Permissive**

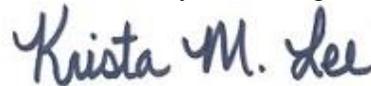
**Decrease Local Expenditures –
\$50,800/FY18-19/Rutherford County/Permissive**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Elections will be held in Rutherford County in May, August, and November of 2018; no additional elections will be held during 2018.
- Based on information provided by the Rutherford County Election Commission, if the Commission votes to participate in the pilot project, it will require additional computers, network capabilities, and voter notification expenses for the May 2018 election of approximately \$77,420.
- The Commission indicates a decrease in local expenditures, per election, resulting from savings in personnel, training, and election supplies. The estimated decrease in local expenditures per election is estimated to be \$25,420, beginning with the May 2018 election.
- The Commission indicates there will be costs for additional computers, network capabilities, and voter notification expenses, when combined with the requisite savings pursuant to the provisions of the bill, the one-time net increase in local expenditures relative to the May 2018 election is estimated to be \$52,000 in FY17-18.
- Additional one-time decrease in local expenditures relative to the August and November 2018 elections is estimated to be \$50,840 (\$25,420 + \$25,420) FY18-19.
- Given that the provisions of the bill would be implemented on the basis the pilot project is adopted by resolution by a super majority vote of the RCEC, any impact to local government (Rutherford County) is considered to occur as the result of a permissive action.
- Any responsibilities, including the required report, for the Division of Elections will be carried out within existing resources; any impact on state expenditures will be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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