

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6342

BILL NUMBER: HB 1195

NOTE PREPARED: Nov 23, 2020

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Straight Ticket Voting.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Saunders

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill removes a voter's option to vote for all candidates of a political party or an independent ticket at one time (straight ticket voting) in a general or municipal election, except for candidates for presidential electors. It repeals superseded statutes relating to straight ticket voting.

Effective Date: July 1, 2021.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The Indiana Election Division may need to revise instructional materials to reflect the bill's changes. However, it is likely the Election Division would be able to complete the changes within their existing staff and resource levels.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Ballot cards for optical-scan systems would have the instructions for voting a straight-party ballot, the straight-party indication ovals, and the devices (major party insignia) beside the straight-party ovals removed from the ballot. In theory, there may be some ballot printing savings from having a shorter ballot. In conjunction with the ballot changes, programming vendors would need to remove the straight-party vote feature when programming the coding cards for the optical-scan readers in future elections. Any additional cost to remove the straight-party vote feature would depend on the contracted agreement between counties and the vendor.

Removal of the straight-party feature would minimally impact counties with recent DRE touchscreen voting systems. Newer DRE systems, such as the GBS Accuvote TSX, have the capability to shut off the straight-party voting option. Currently, DRE voting systems must have either a push button (on older DREs) or an

icon on a touchscreen system for voting a straight ticket.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Election Division.

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards.

Information Sources: <http://www.in.gov/sos/elections/2404.htm>; Hancock County, Jennings County, LaGrange County, and Tippecanoe County clerks; Marion County Election Board.

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