Legislative Analysis

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AMEND ALLOWABLE PRECINCT SIZE

Senate Bill 374 (proposed substitute H-1)
Sponsor: Sen. Jeremy Moss
House Committee: Elections
Senate Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 9-19-23

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 374 would amend the Michigan Election Law to change the maximum number of electors allowed in a precinct from 5,000 to 4,999.

The bill would also allow precincts that are currently divided to have the division abolished as long as it appears, from an examination of registration records, that the consolidated district would not exceed 4,999 active registered electors, rather than 5,000 as currently.

MCL 168.658 and 168.661

BACKGROUND:

2023 PA 88 increased the allowable precinct size from 2,999 to 5,000.[1]

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 374 would have no direct fiscal impact on the Department of State but would provide for potential cost savings to certain cities, wards, townships, or villages that are eligible to consolidate precincts without having over 4,999 registered electors. These local units of government could realize savings by requiring fewer numbers of voting equipment and resources, such as absentee voter counting board tabulators, to meet the election needs in that precinct. Currently, the average cost for an election for a local unit of government is an estimated $2,000 per precinct. If a local unit of government chose to consolidate its precincts, they could save $2,000 for each precinct consolidated. The amount of savings is indeterminate and would depend on the actual number of precincts consolidated.

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[1] For a summary of 2023 PA 88, see: http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billanalysis/House/pdf/2023-HLA-4702-99DE8C3F.pdf.