

Legislative Analysis



AMEND ALLOWABLE PRECINCT SIZE AND REQUIRE CANDIDATES TO FILE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Senate Bill 374 as enrolled
Sponsor: Sen. Jeremy Moss
House Committee: Elections
Senate Committee: Elections and Ethics
Complete to 11-30-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

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 and to require candidates for certain state offices to file financial disclosure reports before taking office.

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.

Additionally, the bill would require a candidate for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state representative, or state senator to file the financial disclosure report required by the Candidate for Office Financial Disclosure Act¹ before they can take office.

The bill is tie-barred to Senate Bill 614, meaning that it could not go into effect unless SB 614 is also enacted.

MCL 168.658 and 168.661 and proposed MCL 168.847a

BACKGROUND:

2023 PA 88 increased the allowable precinct size from 2,999 to 5,000.²

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

¹ Senate Bill 614 would create the Candidate for Office Financial Disclosure Act, which would require the candidates for these offices to file annual financial disclosure reports if their candidate committee received or spent more than \$1,000 during the election cycle. See <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2023-SB-0614>

² For a summary of 2023 PA 88, see: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billanalysis/House/pdf/2023-HLA-4702-99DE8C3F.pdf>.

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.

Legislative Analyst: Holly Kuhn
Fiscal Analyst: Michael Cnossen

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.