

AMEND ALLOWABLE PRECINCT SIZE

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Senate Bills 572 and 573 as reported from House committee

Sponsor: Sen. Jeremy Moss

House Committee: Elections

Senate Committee: Committee of the Whole

Complete to 10-26-23

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

SUMMARY:

Senate Bills 572 and 573 would amend the Michigan Election Law to change the maximum number of electors allowed in a precinct from 5,000 to 4,999.

Senate Bill 572 would 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 voters, rather than 5,000 as currently.

Consolidations must occur at least 120 days before a primary or election.

MCL 168.658

Senate Bill 573 would require city and township election commissions to divide precincts into districts that do not exceed 4,999, rather than 5,000, active registered voters.

City and township election commissions must divide precincts in the second year following each federal census. Divisions must occur at least 120 days before the primary election preceding the next general November election.

MCL 168.661

BACKGROUND:

Together, Senate Bills 572 and 573 are identical to the H-1 substitute for Senate Bill 374, which was passed by the House in October 2023.¹

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bills would likely have no fiscal impact on local units of government, including cities, wards, townships, and villages.

¹ See: <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2023-2024/billanalysis/House/pdf/2023-HLA-0374-43F210B3.pdf>.

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>.

Under the current law, the threshold for being allowed to consolidate precincts is fewer than 5,001 active registered voters. The bills would only result in potential costs in the unlikely case that a unit of government has exactly 5,000 active registered voters and becomes no longer eligible to consolidate precincts. The unit of government would be responsible for costs associated with establishing a separate precinct voting site. These costs would potentially include voting equipment, worker and inspector compensation, supplies, and other costs.

The bills would have no fiscal impact on the state.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bills (10-24-23):

- Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks
- Michigan Townships Association

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■ 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.