

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 954 - SB 1026

March 17, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes eligible individuals to register to vote or update outdated information on their voting record and cast a regular ballot on election-day or during the early voting period.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures –

Exceeds \$242,000/FY19-20 and Every Four Years Thereafter

Increase Local Expenditures –

Exceeds \$242,000/FY17-18 and Every Four Years Thereafter*

Exceeds \$484,100/FY18-19 and Every Two Years Thereafter*

Assumptions:

- According to information provided by the Division of Elections, an additional election official would be required at each polling place to process voters seeking to register or update their personal information on election-day or during early voting and to cast a regular ballot on the same day.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-4-109, officers of elections, judges, machine operators, and inspectors shall be paid for their services on election-day a minimum of \$50 per day. County legislative bodies are authorized to increase this compensation; however, it is unknown how many have elected to do so.
- There are 2,189 total polling locations within the state; 1,985 are election-day locations while the remaining 204 locations are early voting locations.
- The early voting period lasts for 14 days, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-6-102, and early voting occurs no more than 20 days nor less than 5 days before the day of the election.
- The proposed language will result in an increase in expenditures estimated to exceed \$242,050 [(\$50 compensation x 1,985 election-day polling locations) + (\$50 compensation x 204 early voting locations x 14 days of early voting)] per election cycle.
- In years with a Presidential Preference Primary, the state will be responsible for such costs; therefore in FY19-20 and every four years thereafter there will be an increase in state expenditures estimated to exceed \$242,050.
- In FY17-18 and every four years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$242,050; and in FY18-19 and every two years

thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$484,100 (\$242,050 per election cycle x 2 election cycles) for the August primary and November general elections.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jrh