

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2250 - HB 2337

March 5, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes any person eligible to vote in an election to register to vote or update a current registration during the first 10 days of early voting. Requires the State Election Commission (Commission) to prescribe the procedure and forms for a person to register to vote or update voter information during the first 10 days of early voting.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,328,000/FY20-21
Exceeds \$201,100/FY23-24 and Every Four Years Thereafter

Increase Local Expenditures –
Exceeds \$402,500/FY20-21 and Every Two Years Thereafter*
Exceeds \$201,100/FY21-22 and Every Four Years Thereafter*

Assumptions:

- One additional computer will be required for each election-day polling location. Such computers can be utilized at early voting locations without purchasing a computer specifically for the early voting location.
- Based on information previously provided by the Division of Elections, computers are estimated to cost \$663.75 each, for a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$1,317,544 (\$663.75 per computer x 1,985 election-day locations).
- Voter registration forms will be reprinted to reflect the voter registration deadline. Reprinting of forms will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$10,500.
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures in FY20-21 is estimated to be \$1,328,044 (\$1,317,544 computers + \$10,500 registration form reprinting).
- According to 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 \$201,050 [(\$50 compensation x 1,985 election-day polling locations) + (\$50 compensation x 204 early voting locations x 10 days of early voting)] per election cycle.
- In years with a Presidential Preference Primary, the state will be responsible for such costs; therefore in FY23-24 and every four years thereafter there will be an increase in state expenditures estimated to exceed \$201,050.
- The Commission can prescribe the necessary procedures and forms within existing resources.
- In FY20-21 and every two years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$402,500 (\$201,050 per election cycle x 2 election cycles) for the August primary and November general elections; and in FY21-22 and every four years thereafter, there will be a mandatory increase in local expenditures estimated to exceed \$201,050.

**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.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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