

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 200

SHORT TITLE: Mandatory Voter ID

SPONSOR(S): Representative Cummings

FISCAL IMPACT: Expenditures: Increase (X) Decrease ( )  
 Revenues: Increase ( ) Decrease ( )  
 No Impact ( )  
 No Estimate Available ( )

FUNDS AFFECTED: General Fund (X) Highway Fund ( ) Local Fund (x)  
 Other Fund ( )

BILL SUMMARY:

H 200. MANDATORY VOTER ID. TO REQUIRE IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS AND TO PROTECT AGAINST DOUBLE VOTING. Amends GS 163-82.8 to require county boards of elections to issue a voter registration card to each voter. Amends GS

163-150(a) to require that, in order to vote, voters identify themselves by showing a voter registration card, drivers license, special identification card, passport, U.S. Dep't of Defense identification card or social security card and pictured identification. Amends GS 163-150(b) to require that at the time of voting each voter be stamped with ink that will remain visible for the remainder of the day. Requires the state to pay for the printing of voter ID cards.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act becomes effective with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 1996. Voter registration cards shall be issued no later than January 1, 1996 to all voters who had not already been sent them.

Section 3 of this act becomes effective July 1, 1995.

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S)/PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED: State Board of Elections

FISCAL IMPACT

	<u>FY</u> 95-96	<u>FY</u> 96-97	<u>FY</u> 97-98	<u>FY</u> 98-99	<u>FY</u>
99-00					
<b>EXPENDITURES*</b>					
General Fund	\$104,000	\$85,000	\$98,000	\$113,000	
\$130,000					
Local Funds	\$370,000				
*1995 dollars					

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

The estimates presented here are based on discussions with

the State Board of Elections and seven county boards of elections in counties that currently issue voter registration cards. These counties are

Alamance, Cabarrus, Durham, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, and Wake.

Together they comprise 28% of the total number of voters in the state and 47% of voters among counties currently issuing voter registration cards.

The fiscal impact of this bill cannot be measured with any precision for

the following reasons:

- 57 counties have no experience with voter ID cards and are therefore

not reliable sources of information.

- The 43 counties that have experience with voter ID cards do not know

how dramatically the issuance of ID cards will be affected by the National Vote Registration Act (which became effective in January, 1995). NVRA should cause in significant increases in registration activity.

- Because we do not have the time and resources to survey every county,

our estimates are based on the experience of only seven counties (that comprise 28% of the voters in the state).

Because the impact of this bill cannot be measured precisely, the costs discussed in this fiscal note should be viewed only as rough estimates.

Our estimates are based on the following assumptions:

- A voter registration card costs four cents on average.

- The 57 counties that do not currently issue voter registration cards

would receive enough money to print one ID card for each voter in the county.

- The 43 counties that already issue voter registration cards would receive money only to print new cards and replacement cards.

- The recurring annual number of new cards and replacement cards for all 100 counties in subsequent years would be a ratio of approximately one new card for every two registered voters. This ratio was obtained

by comparing the number of new/replacement cards in the counties we interviewed to the number of voters in those counties. These ratios ranged between one to two and one to ten. To allow for increased activity from the NVRA, we assumed a ratio of one new card for every two registered voters. This assumption is believed by the State Board of Elections to be reasonable.

- The number of registered voters in the state as of March 31, 1995, is 3,715,468.

- The number of voters in counties that currently issue voter registration cards is 2,234,979.

- The number of voters in counties that do not currently issue voter registration cards is 1,480,489.

- Costs to the counties of mailing voter ID cards would be approximately 25 cents per mailing.

- Incremental mailing costs would be incurred only in the first year and only in those counties that do not currently issue voter ID cards. New cards and replacement cards would be issued through mailings that would occur whether ID cards were issued or not.

**CALCULATIONS:**

The formula used to calculate first year cost estimates for counties that do not issue voter registration cards is as follows:

printing costs = cost per card x number of registered voters in counties

( or  $.04 \times 1,480,489 = \$59,220$  )

mailing costs = cost per mailing x number of registered voters in counties

( or  $.25 \times 1,480,489 = \$370,122$  )

The formula used to calculate first year cost estimates for counties that do issue voter registration cards is as follows:

cost per card x number of registered voters in counties x ratio of new cards to registered voters

( or  $.04 \times 2,234,979 \times .50 = \$44,700$  )

The formula used to estimate costs in the second year is as follows:

cost per card x number of registered voters in the state x ratio of new cards to registered voters x growth factor in registered voters

( or  $.04 \times 3,715,468 \times .50 \times 1.15 = \$85,456$  )

The formula used to calculate cost estimates in years three through five is the same as that for the second year except that years three through five are assumed to have continued growth of 15% in the number of registered voters in the state.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** State Board of Elections, County Boards of Elections in Alamance, Cabarrus, Durham, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, and Wake counties.

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION**

733-4910

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**DATE:** May 22, 1995

**[FRD#003]**



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