GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2013

Legislative Fiscal Note

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 235 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Voter Protection Integrity/Every Vote Counts.

SPONSOR(S): Senators Clark and Ford

FISCAL IMPACT

☑ **Yes**   ☐ **No**   ☑ **No Estimate Available**

	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18
State Impact					
General Fund Revenues:					
General Fund Expenditures:	350,000				
Special Fund Revenues:					
Special Fund Expenditures:					
State Positions:					
NET STATE IMPACT	**($350,000)**	**$0.0**	**$0.0**	**$0.0**	**$0.0**
Local Impact					
Revenues:					
Expenditures:	2,276,000				
NET LOCAL IMPACT	**($2,276,000)**	**$0.0**	**$0.0**	**$0.0**	**$0.0**

PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:
State Board of Elections and County Governments

EFFECTIVE DATE 7/1/13 and 1/1/14

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:
None

BILL SUMMARY:
This bill requires voters to either present a proper photo identification as identified and allowed by this law or to sign an electronic photo identification. The signing of the electronic photo identification requires an official working at a voting precinct/site to capture an image of the voter and store this image on file within the State Election Information Management System (SEIMS).

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

Every election-day polling site and early voting site will need access to a camera that will connect to a laptop and in turn to the State Election Information Management System (SEIMS).

- There are approximately 300 early voting sites. The cost for these locations would be the purchase of a camera. At approximately $50/camera, this cost is approximately $15,000. (300*$50=$15,000).

There are 2,800 polling sites that are open on Election Day. Counties have the option of operating paper rolls or electronic poll book systems; for those counties with electronic operations, there is already laptop access at this sites and the cost would be the purchase of the cameras only (and possibly additional volunteers). For those sites/counties using paper rolls, the cost would include the purchase of the laptops and cameras (and possibly additional volunteers).

- There are 59 counties using paper poll books; the approximate cost of the purchase of two laptops and two cameras is estimated at $1,500 per site (approximately 1,487 precincts statewide). (1,487*1,500=$2,230,500)
- There are 32 counties using election-day poll book application and have laptops, their cost would be the cost of purchasing the cameras (two per site, $50 each camera $50*2=$100). It is estimated that these 32 counties have an average of 14 precincts per county for a total of 448 precinct voting sites that would need only the two cameras. (448*$100=$44,800)
- There are 9 counties that use a third party vendor for its electronic data system and there may be a cost for vendor upgrades in addition to the two cameras ($100) per precinct, this cost is unknown at this time. (9*100=$900) + (9*unknown cost for upgrades=unknown for the IT upgrade)

Other costs may include additional compensated Election Day volunteers that receive payment from counties to work as election-day officials and the public service announcements/education required to inform the public of the law changes.

- It is unknown whether additional officials will be needed for election-day voting to handle the electronic affidavit; therefore, any potential cost is unknown.
- The Board of Elections estimates that voter education efforts for photo identification requirements and training for local election officials would cost the State approximately $350,000.

Lastly, it is assumed that the SIEMS system already has the capability to handle these types of images; therefore, there are no additional technology costs to State Board of Elections.

SOURCES OF DATA: N.C. State Board of Elections

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

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