

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 1, 2011

TO: Honorable Joseph Pickett, Chair, House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs

FROM: John S O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB111 by Taylor, Van (Relating to the adoption of voting procedures necessary to implement the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would provide voting procedures to implement the federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act.

The bill would require for each Federal Postcard Application (FPCA) registrant accepted to vote, a notation be made beside the voter's name on the early voting poll list and early voting roster indicating that the voter is an FPCA registrant. The early voting clerk would be required to note on the early voting by mail roster each e-mail of a ballot.

The Secretary of State (SOS) would be designated to provide information regarding voter registration procedures and absentee ballot procedures, including procedures related to the federal write-in absentee ballot, to be used by persons eligible to vote under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

The bill would allow certain voters to request from early voting clerks e-mail transmission of balloting materials and the clerk would be required to ensure that a voter's e-mail address is excluded from public disclosure.

The Secretary of State (SOS) would be required to prescribe procedures for the retransmission of balloting materials following an unsuccessful transmission of the materials to a voter. SOS would also be required to create a tracking system under which an Federal Postcard Application registrant may determine whether a voted ballot has been received by the early voting clerk. In addition, SOS would be required to prescribe certain procedures and would be allowed to adopt rules for the implementation of this legislation.

The clerks would be required to include in a jacket envelope a copy of the voter's federal postcard application and the signature cover sheet if the ballot is voted.

The early voting board would be required to keep a record of the number of rejected ballots. The board would also be required to make a notation on the carrier envelope of any ballot that was rejected after the carrier envelope was opened and include the reason the envelope was opened and the ballot was rejected. If the ballot was transmitted by e-mail, the presiding judge would be required to provide the notice of rejected ballot to the e-mail address to which the ballot was sent.

It is anticipated that any costs associated with implementation of the legislation could be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill would take effect on September 1, 2011.

Local Government Impact

The bill would allow a member of the armed services currently serving overseas to request balloting materials electronically and return the ballot by physical mail. Costs to counties would vary depending on the number of military personnel serving overseas who wish to vote but are not anticipated to be significant.

Source Agencies: 307 Secretary of State

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