

Legislative Analysis



COUNTY ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS

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House Bill 5667

Sponsor: Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons

Committee: Elections and Ethics

Complete to 12-9-14

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5667 AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE

House Bill 5667 would amend the Michigan Election Law to clarify the way in which Michigan's 83 county clerks can select a unified voting system for their respective counties.

Beginning on the effective date of the bill, the Secretary of State would have to allow a county clerk—in consultation with the clerk of each city, township, and village located in that county—to determine which electronic voting system would be used in that county.

The electronic voting system selected would have to meet two criteria: (1) be the same type of electronic voting system as the uniform voting system; and (2) be approved and certified as provided in Section 795a of the Michigan Election Law. For a description of the certification process, see:

[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(5anjxu55ytj43bil013vaj\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-168-795a](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(5anjxu55ytj43bil013vaj))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=mcl-168-795a)

The bill also would modify the definition of "uniform voting system." Currently it reads: "the voting system that is used at all elections in every election precinct throughout the state." The bill would make the definition read: "the type of voting system that is used for all elections in every election precinct throughout the state."

MCL 168.4 et al

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill's fiscal impact on the state and local units of government cannot be determined at this time. The Department of State is commencing the process for replacement of electronic voting equipment that is reaching the end of its useful life; no request for proposals has yet been issued. The Department of State reports that functional specifications have not yet been developed; thus, it is not known what systems or equipment may be utilized or at what cost.

POSITIONS:

The following state department, organization, and county, city, and township clerks expressed support for the bill on 9-30-14: the Secretary of State; the Michigan

Townships Association; the Wayne County Clerk; the Ash Township in Monroe County; Berlin Charter Township in Monroe County; the Lansing City Clerk; LaSalle Township; Erie Township; Oregon Township, the City of Monroe; Homer Township in Midland County; the City of Plymouth; Shiawassee County; the Tuscola County Clerk; Lapeer County; St. Clair County; Midland County; Plainfield Township in Kent County; Bloomfield Township; and the City of Rochester Hills.

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