



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: Sub. S.B. 295 of the 129th G.A.

Date: April 4, 2012

Status: As Passed by the Senate

Sponsor: Sen. Coley

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Repeals provisions of H.B. 194 of the 129th G.A. relating to Election Law changes

State and Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill repeals changes made to the Election Law in H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly. Overall, some provisions of H.B. 194 appeared to reduce operating costs for boards of elections, while other provisions of the bill appeared to increase costs for the Secretary of State.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly made changes to the Election Law in several areas. Overall, the provisions of that bill appeared to reduce operating costs for county boards of elections, while other provisions appeared to increase costs for the Secretary of State. There were four areas in particular that LSC estimated would reduce costs for county boards of elections. The first of these was establishing a minimum number of 500 registered voters per precinct in municipal corporations. A second change that might have reduced costs was raising the competitive bidding threshold that applied to ballot printing contracts. Thirdly, H.B. 194 required the Secretary of State to oversee a bulk purchasing program for elections supplies, with the goal of reducing acquisition costs for boards of elections. Fourthly, H.B. 194 gave counties the authority to use electronic poll books. On the state level, H.B. 194 contained provisions regarding electronic voter registration and related voter registration database requirements to be overseen by the Secretary of State. The provisions of H.B. 194 were never implemented by county boards of elections or the Secretary of State because the bill has been placed on the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot for approval by the voters. Because the provisions of H.B. 194 have not been implemented, there is no fiscal impact associated with their repeal under this bill.