



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Sub. H.B. 318 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: October 26, 2011

Status: As Enacted

Sponsor: Rep. Blessing

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Creates two primary elections in 2012 by moving the month in which presidential primary elections are held from March to June, and establishes filing procedures for petitions filed before and after the bill's effective date

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill establishes two primary elections in 2012, one in March and one in June, and requires the state to reimburse local governments for the costs of the June primary. While the bill does not appropriate a specific dollar amount, the estimated cost for this election is approximately \$15 million.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill establishes two primary elections in 2012, one in March and one in June. Local governments will expend approximately \$15 million on the additional primary. However, the bill requires the state to reimburse the local governments for this expense.
- The bill prohibits any special elections in August of 2012, but permits special elections to be held in conjunction with the June primary election. Holding special elections in conjunction with the June primary, the costs of which are reimbursed by the state, may reduce costs for certain local governments.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Overview

The bill establishes a bifurcated primary election for 2012. The primary election for all state-elected officials and United States Senate will be held on March 6, 2012. The primary election for President and Vice-President of the United States, U.S. House of Representatives, and delegates to the major political party national conventions will be held on June 12, 2012. The bill requires the state to reimburse counties for the costs of the June primary. The bill also prohibits a special election in August of 2012, instead permitting a special election in conjunction with the June primary election. Finally, the bill makes various changes to filing deadlines and procedures for the 2012 primary elections.

Primary election expenses

The bill establishes a bifurcated primary election for 2012. The primary election for all state-elected officials and United States Senate will be held on March 6, 2012. The primary election for President and Vice-President of the United States, U.S. House of Representatives, and delegates to the major political party national conventions will be held on June 12, 2012. The latest estimated cost for conducting a special election, as determined by the Secretary of State, is \$1,026 per precinct, based upon the composite average of special election costs for congressional special elections held between 2006 and 2010. However, it should be noted that this estimate is derived from congressional special elections in which there are generally fewer poll workers and lower operating costs. In a statewide primary election, the per-precinct cost would likely be higher. During the November 2010 general election, there were 9,881 precincts open. The Secretary of State, assuming a similar number of precincts operating during the 2012 primary elections, estimates the overall cost of holding an additional statewide election to be approximately \$15 million.

The bill requires the state to reimburse local governments for the costs of the June primary. The bill does not appropriate a specific amount to pay for the primary election. Instead, once the election has been completed, the bill requires the Secretary of State to certify the costs of the election to the Director of Budget and Management. The bill then appropriates this certified cost to GRF appropriation item 911404, Mandate Assistance, which is under the budget of the Controlling Board, and requires the Director of Budget and Management to use the appropriation to reimburse local governments for the costs of the election.

Special elections in 2012 and candidate filing provisions

Current law states that during presidential primary years, there are no special elections permitted in February or May. The bill also prohibits any special elections in August of 2012. Instead of an August 2012 special election, the bill permits special elections to be held in conjunction with the June primary election. Generally, local governments pay the costs of special elections themselves. Holding special elections in conjunction with the June primary, the costs of which are reimbursed by the state, may reduce costs for certain local governments.

The bill also establishes various filing procedures and deadlines for candidates of major parties and write-in candidates who are affected by the primary date changes that exist in the bill. While there could potentially be some additional candidate filings or duplicate candidate filings that result from the bill, these provisions will likely have no fiscal impact on county boards of elections.

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