



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 318 of the 129th G.A.](#) **Date:** September 14, 2011
Status: As Reported by House State Government & Elections **Sponsor:** Rep. Blessing

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Changes the month in which presidential primary elections are held from March to May and declares an emergency

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill changes the date on which the primary election is held in presidential years from March to May. Generally, changing this primary date will have no fiscal impact on county boards of elections.
- The bill will allow for February special elections in years where there is a presidential primary election. The overall cost of these special elections, in the jurisdictions where they occur, will depend on the ballot issue and number of precincts required to be open.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill changes the date on which the primary election is held in presidential years from March to May. Overall, moving this primary date will have no fiscal impact on county boards of elections, as these primaries will be held in the same fashion as other primary elections. Thus, with one exception explained below, there will be no apparent procedural changes that impose new costs on county boards of elections. The exception involves special elections held in February.

Current law states that during presidential primary years, there are no special elections permitted in February or May. However, the bill simply conforms the presidential primary date to the same date as other primary elections, and removes the prohibition of special elections in February. As a result, there could be some local special elections that occur in February. 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 2008. The overall cost of a special election, however, will depend on the number of issues on the ballot, and the number of precincts that would need to be open to hold the election.

The bill declares an emergency in order to allow additional time prior to the 2012 presidential primary election for the General Assembly to adopt and implement new congressional district boundaries.