



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 240 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: February 24, 2014

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Reps. J. Adams and Becker

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Eliminates special elections in February and August

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- A political subdivision's or taxing district's costs for conducting a special election in February or August is determined by a cost allocation method under current law. Overall, removing the ability to conduct special elections in February and August could thus reduce overall election costs for political subdivisions and taxing districts.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill eliminates the ability of political subdivisions or taxing districts to conduct special elections in the months of February and August. When a political subdivision or taxing district conducts a special election in February or August, the costs are determined by a process under R.C. 3501.17. The most recent cost estimate prepared by the Secretary of State for conducting a special election, based upon the composite average of special election costs for congressional special elections held between 2006 and 2008, is \$1,026 per precinct. However, the cost per precinct varies based upon the number of registered voters in a precinct. The Secretary of State's estimates for special elections indicate that urban precincts had costs of up to approximately \$1,500 per precinct, while some rural precincts incurred costs of approximately \$800 per precinct.

The overall cost of a special election depends on the number of precincts that are required to be open to hold the election. Furthermore, recently enacted Am. Sub. S.B. 109 of the 130th G.A. permits a board of elections to reduce the number of required precinct election officials for a special election from four to two, depending on the need. This would lower the costs of conducting special elections. Removing the ability to conduct February and August special elections altogether means that political subdivisions or taxing districts would avoid these costs altogether. The table below shows the number of special election issues that appeared on a ballot in either a February or August special election between calendar years 2009 and 2013.

Special Election Issues, Calendar Years 2009-2013		
Year	February	August
2009	36	26
2010	16	35
2011	12	37
2012	N/A*	60
2013	9	28

*There were no February special elections in 2012 because it was a Presidential election year, when the primaries were in March.