



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 369 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: November 9, 2011

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Huffman

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Redraws Ohio's congressional district lines, removes provisions that require two primary elections in 2012, eliminates an appropriation, and declares an emergency

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill redraws U.S. congressional district lines in Ohio based on the 2010 decennial census. Because of the slow rate of population growth in Ohio compared to other states in the nation, the number of congressional districts in Ohio must be reduced from 18 to 16.
- The bill repeals provisions of Sub. H.B. 318 of the 129th General Assembly which establish two primary elections in 2012, one in March and one in June. The bill also repeals an appropriation made in H.B. 318 to reimburse county boards of elections for the costs of the June primary, which are estimated to total approximately \$15 million.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- County boards of elections will incur some new costs as a result of the new districts. Sub. H.B. 319 of the 129th General Assembly appropriated \$2.75 million to cover these costs.
- The bill repeals provisions of Sub. H.B. 318 of the 129th General Assembly which establish two primary elections in 2012, one in March and one in June. The bill also repeals an appropriation made in H.B. 318 to reimburse county boards of elections for the costs of the June primary, which are estimated to total approximately \$15 million.
- The bill also repeals provisions of H.B. 318 that prohibit special elections in August of 2012, but permit them to be held in conjunction with the June primary election. Under H.B. 318, political subdivisions holding a special election in conjunction with the June primary do not bear the full cost of the special election. However, under the bill, political subdivisions holding a special election in August do bear the full cost.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Congressional district lines

The bill establishes U.S. congressional district boundaries for the state based on the 2010 decennial census of Ohio. Based on this census data, the state of Ohio saw a reduction of two congressional seats, lowering the number of districts in Ohio from 18 to 16. The 88 county boards of elections will incur new costs for carrying out the redistricting plan. To assist with implementing the redistricting plan, Sub. H.B. 319 of the 129th General Assembly created GRF line item 911404, Mandate Assistance, with an FY 2012 appropriation of \$2.75 million, in the Controlling Board's budget. H.B. 319 requires that this appropriation be used to cover the costs incurred for remapping and reprecincting counties, as well as reprogramming database systems and voting machines. The bill also eliminates a provision of H.B. 319 which requires county boards of elections to send out mailings to registered voters containing information regarding the date of the election, the precinct in which the voter should vote, and the congressional district in which the voter lives. As a result of this change, these election notification costs will be avoided.

Primary election date

The bill repeals provisions of Sub. H.B. 318 of the 129th General Assembly which establish two primary elections in 2012, one in March and one in June. With the repeal of these provisions, there will be a single March primary election in 2012. H.B. 318 also requires the state to reimburse county boards of elections for the costs of conducting the June primary election, and appropriates the amount necessary to make this reimbursement from the GRF. While H.B. 318 does not appropriate a specific dollar amount, the estimated cost for the June primary election is approximately \$15 million. The bill repeals both this reimbursement requirement and the associated GRF appropriation.

Special elections

The bill also repeals provisions of H.B. 318 that prohibit special elections in August of 2012, but permit them to be held in conjunction with the June primary election. Continuing law requires that the political subdivision holding a special election on a day other than the day of a primary or general election pay all the costs associated with that election. So, under H.B. 318, political subdivisions holding a special election in conjunction with the June primary do not bear the full cost of the special election. However, under the bill, political subdivisions holding a special election in August do bear the full cost.