



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL: 33

PRINTER'S NO: 1217

PRIME SPONSOR: Pileggi

As amended by A02238

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2008/09	FY 2009/10
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
General Fund	\$0	\$0

OVERVIEW:

Senate Bill 33, as amended by A02238, would prohibit a county board of elections, except in certain circumstances, from establishing, abolishing, dividing, consolidating or altering an election district during the period from July 15, 2009 through November 30, 2012 until a resolution of all judicial appeals to the 2012 Congressional Redistricting Plan occurs, whichever is later. A county board of elections would be able to alter an election district during this period if:

- In the case of the division of an election district, the boundary of each resulting district is composed entirely of clearly visible physical features conforming within the census block lines or portions of the original boundary of the election district which was divided.
- In the case of the combination of election districts, the boundary of each resulting district is composed entirely of portions of the original boundaries of the election districts that were combined.

The bill directs the Secretary of the Commonwealth to submit to the Bureau of the Census any necessary corrections to municipal and election district boundaries as they are depicted on Census Bureau maps, so that these boundaries conform to the official municipal and election district boundaries of the Commonwealth.

The bill makes the voting standards adopted by the Voting Standards Development Board effective for 2009 and 2010 elections. The Help America Vote Act requires each state to adopt uniform and nondiscriminatory standards that define what constitutes a vote and what will be counted as a vote for each category of voting system used in the state. Voting standards were published and had the force and effect of law under the Pennsylvania Election Code at 25 P.S. § 2624(h)(2) for the General Election in 2004 and any primary, municipal, special and general election in 2006 and 2007. However, due to the sunset provision, the voting standards are no longer in effect.

The bill also requires any voting system used in any election, not just Federal elections, to comply with section 301 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

ANALYSIS:

Adoption of this bill would have no adverse fiscal impact on Commonwealth funds as the bill does not affect the Department's current operations.

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House Appropriations Committee, (D)

DATE: June 29, 2009

General Note and Disclaimer: *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*