

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 1 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Edwards C., Garrard, Gelser, Nolan, Read, Roblan
<b>Nays:</b>	Berger
<b>Exc.:</b>	Jenson
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Barbara Allen, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/29, 6/3, 6/4

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Amends several sections of statute regarding language in ballot titles and ballot envelopes for measures authorizing the renewal of current local option taxes. Directs county clerks to send election results electronically to the Secretary of State in a timely manner and adds rules permitting authorized persons to watch the verification of signatures on a state initiative petition or perspective petition for a state measure. Adds rules regarding the creation, combination or division of precincts by a county clerk. Sets effective date for precinct changes on and after January 1, 2012. Sets effective date for witnessing signature verification to petitions filed with the Secretary of State on or after the effective date. Amends certain election statutes only if House Bill 2005 (2009) becomes law. Those sections include: amending rules regarding the collection of signatures for state initiatives, referendums or recall petitions; specifying that a chief petitioner may not be held criminally liable for a violation committed by a person obtaining signatures on their behalf; and specifying that a contractor may not be held criminally liable based on a violation committed by a subcontractor on their behalf. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Language on ballot envelopes as well as the ballot regarding the repercussions of voting for or against a tax levy
- Confusing precinct divisions
- Advantage of administering larger precincts
- Rules regarding the collection of signatures for state initiatives, referendums and recall petitions

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces original measure.

**BACKGROUND:** House Bill 3237-A modifies the current requirements for the public disclosure of tax levies in ballot titles to more accurately reflect their affect. It is suggested that it is misleading to voters considering renewing an expiring levy to see the language 'may increase taxes' when if the levy is renewed, their taxes would remain the same. Additionally, the -5 amendments streamline the process of allowing observers to witness signature verification to make it more consistent and efficient.

The measure also corrects overly broad language in House Bill 2005 (2009), related to paid signature gatherers for state measure initiative petitions.