

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Atkinson, Ferrioli, Metsger, Devlin
Nays:	-
Exc.:	Burdick
Prepared By:	Erin Seiler, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires ballot title and outer envelope of ballot to contain statement that ballot has vote on proposed tax increase or vote authorizing renewal of current local option taxes. Adds criteria for creating, combining or dividing voter precincts. Requires county clerk ensure each precinct is part of same congressional and legislative district; each precinct is contiguous; number of voters in precinct does not exceed 5,000; and to divide into two equal precincts if voter exceeds 5,000. Sets effective date for precinct changes on or after January 1, 2012. Requires county clerk to electronically send precinct results to the Secretary of State as soon as possible after an election. Applies to elections held on or after January 1, 2010. Requires Secretary of State and county clerk to permit authorized person to observe verification of signatures on state initiative petition or prospective petition. Stipulates that if House Bill 2005 (2009) becomes law the following amendments to election law will be enacted: a chief petitioner may not be held criminally liable for a violation committed by a person obtaining signatures on their behalf and that a contractor may not be held criminally liable based on a violation committed by a subcontractor on their behalf. Applies to violations that occur on or after January 1, 2010. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarifies chief petitioner liability when designated signature gather violates election law
- Consistency in the size of voter precincts
- Impact of growth and community development on voter precincts
- Creation of island precincts
- Fiscal impact on county clerks
- Accurate election results

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: When a local district or government proposes a new or renewed local option tax, the ballot is statutorily required to state, as part of the question, the ballot title for a measure authorizing the imposition of local option taxes shall state and that front of the outer envelope that the ballot is delivered in appear in red "CONTAINS VOTE ON PROPOSED TAX INCREASE." House Bill 3237-A expands ballot notification requirement, requiring that the ballot and outer envelope indicate on the ballot and outer envelope that measure contains vote authorizing renewal of current local option tax.

Currently, when voter precincts are established or modified, the only statutory directive prohibits a precinct from having more the 5,000 electors. Increases in density in urban areas and development in formerly undeveloped areas has resulted inconsistencies in the boundaries of voter precincts, including the creation of island precincts and split precincts. House Bill 3237-A requires that voter precincts being within the same congressional and legislative district and be one contiguous body.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

Individuals are permitted watch the verification of signatures on a state initiative petition or perspective petition for a state measure. The Secretary of State and county election officials handle requests for viewing verification procedures differently. House Bill 3237-A standardizes the process for requesting and observing the verification process, by requiring an individual to submit a written request and permitting election officials to limit the number of observers to a number that will not interfere with the process.