

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	6 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
Nays:	-
Exc.:	Freeman, Garrett
Prepared By:	Jim Stenbridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/28, 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires automatic vote recount at non-partisan primary election when candidate is within one-fifth of one percent of a majority vote. Specifies that law does not apply to the offices of sheriff, county clerk, or county treasurer, or if the nominating election is for the purpose of filling a vacancy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Secretary of State pays for recounts only when candidates within one-fifth of one percent of each other
- Example of Superintendent of Public Instruction race in 2010 when winner won a majority by less than one-fifth of one percent of the vote

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes reference to “nominating” election.

BACKGROUND: A non-partisan candidate—other than for sheriff, county clerk, or county treasurer, or to fill a vacancy—in a primary election who receives a majority of the votes cast for the office is elected without going through the general election. Current law provides for automatic recounts if the top candidates are within one-fifth of one percent of each other, but does not address situations where a non-partisan candidate is close to a majority of all votes cast for the office at a primary election. Non-partisan offices affected by House Bill 2912-A include judge, justice of the peace, county assessor, county surveyor, District Attorney, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Metropolitan Service District offices.