

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/29/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/29

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Barnhart, Hoyle, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner

Nays: 4 - Gilliam, Kennemer, McLane, Wilson

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies that county clerk may use voter's registration record, rather than physical registration card to authenticate signatures. Permits elections official to deliver form updating information on district board members by best form of communication. Clarifies that filing officer is responsible for release as public record, information regarding challenged ballot. Filing officer for purpose of release of information is Secretary of State for federal, statewide and state senator and representative elections, and county clerk for county, city or district elections.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Maintenance of physical registration cards by county clerks
- Definition of "filing officer"

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 28-A addresses several statutory changes related to county clerks' role as election officials. In order to provide consistent procedure for all signature envelopes, the measure removes the requirement that clerks 'mark' on absentee voters' signature envelopes. (This process is currently not required on all other signature envelopes.) Secondly, the measure changes the term "registration card" to "registration record" in multiple places in statute that reference a narrower definition of the method used by election officials to verify signatures on returned ballots. The change in nomenclature provides a more accurate statutory description of the records created when a person registers to vote because it will include signature records provided by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for individuals who register to vote online. When an individual registers to vote online, a registration record is created that verifies digital signatures through the DMV. There is no physical voter registration card processed by a county election official.

Finally, the measure removes the requirement that notice to districts requesting updated information on board members be sent by certified mail. SB 28-A will permit counties to use the best mode of communication available for the district's updated information, such as regular mail, email or facsimile.

SB 28-A streamlines and updates statutory provisions of concern to county clerks in their roles as elections officials.