



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Terry Steele

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [H.B. 391 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: December 13, 2011

Status: As Introduced

Sponsor: Rep. Huffman

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Eliminates the requirement that Ohio conduct two primary elections in 2012 and declares an emergency

State and Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill repeals provisions of Sub. H.B. 318 of the 129th General Assembly which establish two primary elections in 2012, one in March and one in June, and instead requires a single primary to be held on May 22, 2012. The bill also repeals an appropriation made in H.B. 318 to reimburse county boards of elections for the costs of the June primary, which are estimated to total approximately \$15 million.
- The bill also repeals provisions of H.B. 318 that prohibit special elections in August of 2012, but permit them to be held in conjunction with the June primary election. Under H.B. 318, political subdivisions holding a special election in conjunction with the May primary do not bear the full cost of the special election. However, under the bill, political subdivisions holding a special election in August do bear the full cost.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Primary election date

The bill repeals provisions of Sub. H.B. 318 of the 129th General Assembly which establish two primary elections in 2012, one in March and one in June. With the repeal of these provisions, there will be a single May primary election in 2012. H.B. 318 also requires the state to reimburse county boards of elections for the costs of conducting the June primary election, and appropriates the amount necessary to make this reimbursement from the GRF. While H.B. 318 does not appropriate a specific dollar amount, the estimated cost for the June primary election is approximately \$15 million. The bill repeals both this reimbursement requirement and the associated GRF appropriation.

Special elections

The bill also repeals provisions of H.B. 318 that prohibit special elections in August of 2012, but permit them to be held in conjunction with the May primary election. Continuing law requires that the political subdivision holding a special election on a day other than the day of a primary or general election pay all the costs associated with that election. So, under H.B. 318, political subdivisions holding a special election in conjunction with the June primary do not bear the full cost of the special election. However, under this bill, political subdivisions holding a special election in August do bear the full cost.